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20 PAGES 150 FILLS



Nepal talks ruled out

Hundreds of soldiers and police enforced a strict curfew in Kathmandu on Sunday and the leader of the pro-democracy movement rejected government calls for a dialogue.

Ganesh Man Singh, an ailing 80-year-old confined to a hospital bed, called the government's offer to discuss reforms hypocritical in light of the dozens of people killed in the six-week long movement.

"No Nepali should be misled by a hypocritical offer of a dialogue in view of what has resulted out of the killings and injuries to hundreds of Nepalese," Singh, head of the banned Nepali Congress Party, said in a statement.

Picture shows demonstrators march in Kathmandu. (Reuters wirephoto)

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NEWSWATCH



'Clamp on Aids'

French researchers said on Saturday they had succeeded in stopping the Aids virus from reproducing in a human cell, bringing science a step closer to preventing the deadly disease from taking hold in the human body.

Professor Jean-Claude Gnermann, a researcher at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Marseille, announced that his team had found an antibody that prevents the virus from replicating when it enters a healthy human cell.

"Think of the virus as a man, and the cell as a room. He goes into the room, does what he wants, multiplies and so on," Gnermann explained in a French radio interview.

"But next to the doorbell we have found something that opens a trap. And when the virus enters, it disappears."



Poindexter guilty

Former White House aide John Poindexter was found guilty on Saturday of five felony charges stemming from the Iran-Contra scandal that rocked Reagan's presidency.

Details page 4

New British prison riot: Trouble flared at yet another British jail on Saturday when inmates at the notorious Dartmoor prison defied guards and staged a rooftop protest.

The incident, described as a major disturbance, came as a hard core of about 25 prisoners continued their week-long occupation of Strangeways prison in the northern city of Manchester after one of Britain's worst prison riots.

Three Strangeways prisoners surrendered on Saturday afternoon as authorities negotiated with protesters, but others remained defiant on the roof of the gutted jail.

Since the Strangeways riot erupted last Sunday, a prisoner and a warden have died in hospital, but there has been no confirmation of repeated reports that a number of dead bodies have still to be recovered from the jail. (Reuters) Details page 5

Greeks begin voting: Greece's eight million electors began voting in their third general election in 10 months at dawn — Details page 11

Iraq fire strikes N-chord; Cairo calms

CAIRO, April 8, (Agencies): President Hosni Mubarak says he has assured the United States, European and other countries that Iraq is not a warmonger in an effort to deescalate an international campaign against President Saddam Hussein, the Middle East News Agency reported today.

Mubarak said his brief visits Saturday to Iraq and Jordan were aimed at trying to calm down the situation. Meanwhile, a Qatari newspaper quoted informed sources as saying that Mubarak relayed in Saddam a message from US President George Bush in which he affirmed that

the US administration was "no party to the propaganda campaign against Iraq."

Al Raya said the two Arab leaders considered Bush's message "a positive response that calls for self-control and non-escalation of the propaganda war."

Mubarak returned from his several hour visit to the Iraqi capital Baghdad and the Jordanian resort port Aqaba early today. Mena carried what it said were comments Mubarak made to Egyptian newspaper editors on the flight home as well as remarks made in a joint press conference with Saddam in Baghdad last night.

"Iraq had without doubt been facing a campaign," Mubarak said. "I have spoken about this issue with leaders in the United States, some European countries and other states, and assured them that Iraq is not a country which wants or calls for war."

Mubarak said he had sent messages to these countries, telling them that Iraq wanted a "just peace" and not war.

"The real reason behind the dark clouds affecting Iraq-US relations is the interference of the Zionist lobby in American politics which led to the United States' mismanaging the situation," Saddam was quoted by Mena as saying.

"My quick trips to Iraq and Jordan come within the framework to deescalate the situation that started with the threats that were made against Iraq," Mena quoted Mubarak as saying.

"Egypt is trying its best to declare the Middle East an area clear of weapons of mass destruction," Mubarak said in remarks carried by the official news agency.

Saddam yesterday rejected Bush's suggestion that Iraq

(Continued on Page 7)

Kuwait to restore parliamentary life

Terms to set through dialogue

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah affirmed yesterday that the parliamentary life in Kuwait would be restored.

Addressing a gathering of over 95 personalities comprising chairmen of public and co-operative societies, the Crown Prince emphasised that such return "must be tied with introducing some new regulations and conditions that would be agreed upon through

dialogue with various sections of citizens." He affirmed that the dialogue will continue.

Sheikh Saad stressed on the need to learn the lessons from the experiments of the past in order to avoid committing the same mistakes in the future. He said that we are trying very hard to revive the parliamentary life "for the sake and service of the nation."

He affirmed that the strength of Kuwait emanates from the unity of its internal front under the leadership of H.H. the Amir. "This was the motive for us to overcome crisis and difficulties," Sheikh Saad stressed. He called for discarding the rumours and for fighting them. "Such rumours could well affect the unity and strength of our society and thus must be fought," Sheikh Saad said.

A number of personalities who attended the meeting stressed that Sheikh Saad insisted on the need to restore the National Assembly.

They said that a number of chairmen spoke during the meeting and stressed that "in order to ensure the smooth running of the Assembly regulations should be introduced after the return of the parliamentary life."

HH the Amir dissolved Parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy the country.

Sheikh Saad said he would continue dialogue with various groups "on public participation which we want... but away from old practices."

State expels Iraqi

WASHINGTON, April 8, (AP): The US State Department has expelled an Iraqi diplomat at the United Nations because of his suspected role in an alleged plot to murder two opponents of the Baghdad government in the United States.

The diplomat, who was not identified, was accused for "an abuse of his privileges of residence in the United States," a department spokeswoman, Anita Stockman, said yesterday. She said the diplomat left on Thursday.

"Given the nature of the diplomat's actions, it would be inappropriate for the government of Iraq to take any retaliatory action," she added.

The State Department declined to provide any details, except to say that the expulsion was linked to a criminal investigation in California.

But a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the diplomat participated in the murder plot, which was disrupted by the FBI.

148 feared dead in ferry 'death trap'



Thick smoke continues to billow from the stricken ferry Scandinavian Star yesterday. Fires are still burning on board the ship. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ship still ablaze

Fires 'set' in corridors

LYSEKIL, Sweden, April 8, (Agencies): The death toll in Scandinavia's worst ever ferry disaster is expected to reach 148, but the final toll may never be known as identification of many of those who perished on board may be impossible, Swedish police said today.

"The captain has told us there were 493 people on board. We know that 145 were saved. We can only say the rest must be dead," said police commissioner Rour Onso today.

Onso said 75 passengers were confirmed dead after a body count by firemen in one part of the vessel, the rest of the missing passengers and crew were thought to be in other parts of the vessel which had not yet been searched.

"But all the figures, apart from the body count, are uncertain since there was no precise passenger list," Onso said.

The 10,000-tonne Scandinavian Star ferry, which burst into flames early yesterday during a voyage from Norway to Denmark, continued to burn fiercely today as the vessel lay at quay in this picturesque Swedish town 100 km (60 mi) north of the west coast port of Gothenburg.

A thick wall of black smoke, visible in the clear weather from a distance of 15 miles, continued to belch from the stricken vessel as a small army of firemen tried to contain the fire.

Several fireboats poured water into the superstructure of the blackened vessel as hundreds of Nor-

wegians flocked to Lysekil to hear news of their relatives.

Flags flew at half mast throughout Scandinavia today as a mark of respect for those killed in what governments and monarchs in the region called "a terrible tragedy."

"I don't think the fire will be out for quite some hours yet," said an exhausted fire brigade spokesman Olle Wennstrom.

Wennstrom said the fire had taken hold again and was raging towards the front of the vessel. The Caribbean deck, upon which the first fire started was burnt out and flames continued to gush through the deck above.

"The bridge is likely to be burnt out, much of the superstructure of the ship is likely to end as a shell," Wennstrom said.

He said firemen had attempted to enter the vessel's C deck early today but had been forced by intense heat to retreat after moving only 50 feet into the passageway.

Onso said he did not expect the vessel to stop burning until sometime tonight after which police and firemen would be removing those who perished.

"But the process of identification is going to be very difficult. Such a fire that has raged through the passageways of the vessel will make our job highly complicated. In many cases it may be impossible," Onso said.

He added all remains were to be taken to the Norwegian capital Oslo

where Norwegian and Swedish police and forensic scientists would try to identify those on board.

As firemen battled the flames, heavy criticism was levelled at the Danish operators of the vessel for alleged lapses in safety regulations.

Fires aboard the 10,000-tonne Scandinavian Star began at 2.30 am (00.30 GMT) Saturday while the passenger and car ferry was on its way with Easter holidaymakers from Norway's capital Oslo to Denmark's northern port of Frederikshavn.

Sailors' organisation in Denmark and Sweden heavily criticised safety and crew conditions on board the Scandinavian Star, which was only put in on the Oslo-Frederikshavn route six days ago.

"The (Filipino and Portuguese) crew could not understand each other and from the reports we have received did not seem trained for such an emergency," said Henrik Berlau, spokesman for Denmark's sailors' union.

He added the union had been horrified to hear reports that safety devices on board the vessel did not appear to work.

"There must be a complete investigation into this tragedy," Berlau said.

A survivor of a river-ferry disaster in Burma was quoted today as saying the craft sank within minutes of being struck by gale-force winds. Up to 210 are feared dead.

Rebels free coup leader

Cory 'mad' over Bibit

MANILA, April 8, (Reuters): Black-hooded rebel soldiers shot their way into a Manila prison before dawn today and whisked away the leader of a failed army coup as his guards drank to celebrate a warden's birthday.

An angry President Corason Aquino ordered an investigation, "the President is mad because there was no reason for the guards in the jail city to be drinking at that time," said spokeswoman Lourdes Sytanag.

About 20 armed men freed retired Lieutenant-Colonel Billy Bibit while guards drank beer which Bibit helped to buy, investigators said. One guard told them, "we were just having a little drink sir."

Four prisoners charged with non-political crimes escaped with Bibit and two people were slightly injured in the shootout.

The military sacked the jail warden, placed his deputy and the other guards under investigation and launched a manhunt for Bibit, one of 20 people charged with rebellion in a military last December, the sixth army coup attempt against Aquino.

Armed forces chief general Renato de Villa ordered tighter security in military stockades to prevent the escape of other jailed rebel soldiers, a military spokesman said.

Bibit, who was captured at his Manila hideout last January, is the second alleged coup officer to escape in six weeks. Half a dozen other rebel soldiers have escaped from detention over the past two years, sparking widespread media criticism of the military for alleged inefficiency.

The presidential palace said Aquino, himself accused of weak leadership, would take "forceful action" to deal with the latest incident but did not elaborate.

The raiders whisked away Bibit in a stolen truck after storming the prison compound with guns blazing in the raid.

"One of the Rambos (rebel soldiers) smashed the prison cell padlock with an iron bar and shouted 'go, go, go.' The colonel was already dressed up and they took him away," a prisoner said.

"The information we got was that there was a party (among the guards) inside the jail at the time," Sergeant Filomeno Bugallon said in an interview.

He said Bibit's two guards fail an alcohol test given after the raid.

The escape occurred a day after the military declared a nation-wide red alert for the Easter holidays amid rumours rebel soldiers might attack



Jailed former Colonel Billy Bibit (standing), one of the suspected leaders of last December's coup attempt in the Philippines, was freed by masked rebel troops who stormed Manila's city jail yesterday. Picture was taken January 1990 after Bibit and another rebel soldier were arrested in a Manila hideout. (Reuters wirephoto)

army stockades to free jailed comrades or launch a new coup.

Elsewhere, police today captured Air Force Captain Christopher Meccas, the pilot of fugitive coup leader Gregorio Honasan, in his hideout in a Manila suburb.

Meccas flew Honasan out of the rebel-held military headquarters in Manila during an August 1987 coup attempt as government troops crushed the one-day revolt.

Government troops captured an alleged intelligence officer of the outlawed communist military movement today the military announced in Balanga.

Col Rene Estado said Robert Omega was arrested in a house in Marikina, a town 64 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of the capital on the Bataan peninsula.

Omega is believed to be an intelligence officer of the New People's Army operating in Manila and neighbouring Rizal province, Estado said. He said soldiers seized a pistol, several bullets and a hand grenade at the time of the capture.

Ummah unite on exodus 'Limit to patience'

RABAT, April 8, (Agencies): Islamic states appealed urgently today to the Soviet Union, the United States and the European Economic Community for help in halting the Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel.

"Our patience has reached the limit," said King Hassan of Morocco, who will visit the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the Vatican to press for action.

The Jerusalem committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting, said the migration would spark a "dramatic demographic explosion and artificial growth of the population in a territory of limited size and resources."

The committee quoted PLO chairman Yasser Arafat as saying three million Jews from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Ethiopia were expected to arrive in Israel, doubling its population.

It said he told the meeting Israel planned to create new settlements on occupied Arab territory and expand its frontiers.

Arafat showed members of the 14-nation committee what he described as an Israeli coin engraved with a map of "greater Israel," comprising Jordan, Lebanon and large parts of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq.

The OIC appeal is the latest by Arab states alarmed that the Soviet Jews will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, destroying Palestinian hopes of a homeland.

Israel says it expects 750,000 Soviet Jews to arrive over the next

five years following liberalised Soviet emigration restrictions. It says there is no policy of settling them in the occupied territories.

The statement urged Moscow to ban the emigration because it violated international conventions, when Israel refused to allow Palestinians to return to their own country.

It said it violated freedom of movement, because the United States had imposed limits on the entry of Soviet Jews and transit camps for them in Europe had been closed down.

The committee urged Moscow not to strip the emigrants of their nationality so they could return home if they wished, and to obtain a guarantee from Israel that Soviet Jews would not be settled on occupied Arab territories.

A senior official said today that Israel could not accept a Soviet offer to allow direct flights to Israel for Jewish immigrants in exchange for a promise not to settle them in the occupied territories and east Jerusalem.

Avi Pazner, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said: "They go where they want to go. We cannot interfere with that."

Ramadan timings

Imsak: 3.57; Iftar: 6.12

India communal riots toll rises to 44: Pakistan concerned

AHMEDABAD, India, April 8, (Reuters): The Indian army was deployed in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad today, where at least 44 people have been killed in five days of rioting between Hindus and Muslims.

Hospital sources said five more people were killed early today either from stab wounds in the rioting or bullet wounds from security forces trying to disperse mobs.

Authorities have imposed an indefinite curfew on the old walled area of Ahmedabad, the main city in Gujarat state.

Tensions worsened after a Hindu priest was killed yesterday and army troops were guarding his funeral procession today, which was to wind through a Muslim area of town.

The city of 2.5 million people has a long history of Hindu-Muslim violence, with one of the worst incidents occurring in 1980 when more than 50 people were killed.

The latest bout of violence that began on April 3 stems mainly from political uncertainties after the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made strong gains in February's state assembly elections, political analysts in Gujarat said.

The BJP and the Janata Dal, the party of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, have formed an uneasy coalition government in Gujarat. Muslims voted overwhelmingly for the Janata Dal in the state elections, the analysts said.

Hindus and Muslims fought bitterly during the run-up to November's general elections which brought Singh's fragile minority government to power.

Singh is depending on support from the right wing BJP and leftist parties in Parliament to stay in power and faces sectarian and separatist violence in other parts of the country of 820 million people.

Hindu-Muslim tension during the national election campaign centred on plans by fundamentalist Hindus to build a temple by a 16th-century mosque in the north Indian town of Ayodhya.

Fundamentalist Hindus have vowed to go

ahead with plans to build the temple to their deity Lord Rama at the end of this month despite opposition from Singh's government.

In Islamabad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed anguish and dismay at Pakistan government over bloody Hindu-Muslim riots in Ahmedabad.

In a statement he regretted loss of several innocent lives as a result of communal violence.

It was, he said, the sincere hope of Pakistan government that the Indian government, consistent with its constitutional obligation, would take all effective measures for the security and safety of Indian Muslim population and prevent further spread of communal violence.

Israel denies Arafat contact

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 8, (AP): Top aides to former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir categorically denied PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's claimed contacts with the Israeli leaders yesterday.

"Yasser Arafat claims contacts with Mr Rabin at least twice a week and each time I deny it," said a top Rabin aide.

The PLO chairman said he had had clandestine contacts with Israeli leaders.

Laughing gunman shoots woman

BRISBANE, Australia, April 8. (AP)—A laughing gunman fatally shot a woman and wounded six others during a rampage on a Gold Coast resort strip before he was wounded and subdued, police and witnesses said.

The black-clad sniper began shooting randomly from a high-rise apartment building and then ran down a busy street before he was shot in the arm by police and tackled, authorities said.

Police spokesman constable David Austin said a 26-year-old man was in custody and would be charged today in connection with the shootings.

The suspect, who was not identified, was being treated at a hospital and was under police guard, Austin said.

The shooting occurred yesterday at Burleigh Heads, 50 miles (80 kms) south of Brisbane. The woman who died underwent surgery at Southport hospital late yesterday but died soon afterward. The other six victims all were listed in stable condition by the hospital.

Police said the dead woman was 77-year-old who had been driving past and was shot three times in the stomach.

Eyewitness said the gunman laughed wildly as he fired off rounds after sound of ammunition during his shooting spree, which lasted more than 30 minutes.

The area was crowded with shoppers and crowds watching a surfing contest when the shootings began.

Witnesses said the man shot randomly at cars and pedestrians.

"For a while he just seemed to fire at anything that moved," said Ted Perry, manager of a nearby apartment block.

Student found innocent of drowning baby

TAMPA, Florida, April 8 (AP)—A college student who claimed she did not remember being pregnant or giving birth was found innocent by reason of insanity yesterday in the drowning of her newborn baby in a dormitory toilet.

Chloe Hilary Moritt, 18, burst into tears of joy and hugged her attorney when the jury returned its verdict after nearly 17 hours of deliberations over three days.

Ms. Moritt, who would have faced life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder, was ordered by circuit Judge Richard Lizzara to continue psychiatric care in her hometown of Hollywood.

The Hillsborough community college student was charged with drowning the 6-pound, 9-ounce (3-kilogram) boy only minutes after giving birth in her dormitory on Oct. 23.

Roommates heard a baby's cries before they found Ms. Moritt in the bathroom covered in blood and took her to the hospital. When they returned, they found the baby stuffed headfirst in the commode, wrapped in bloody towels and sheets.

Nine mental health experts testified for the defense that Ms. Moritt suffered from a dissociative disorder in which she detached herself from her pregnancy and everything to do with it.



A 1920 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost which is competing in the London to Peking Car Challenge Rally makes its way across Westminster Bridge in London on Saturday. The 8,000 mile 56-day rally retraces the 1907 journey from London to Peking. (Reuters wirephoto)

Revival of epic race

Trip to China begins

LONDON, April 8, (UPI)—Drivers of 70 mostly classic vehicles embarked yesterday on a 9,800-mile journey to Beijing that will take them across deserts, mountains and waterways in the first revival of a race last held in 1907.

To the sound of a ceremonial band, the 170 participants of the "Voyage Jules Verne, London to Beijing" motor challenge "chugged off from central Hyde Park on their first leg to the port of Dover, from where they were to cross the English Channel.

Some of the vehicles were modern, but most were classic, including a 1912 Lancia Simplex Speedster, a 1939 BSA motorcycle and sidecar and a 1920 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost.

The 56-day journey is less a race than an opportunity to raise money for charity. Organisers said it has taken years to arrange because the 70 vehicles will enter 13 countries and territories and require special fuelling and rest stops along the way.

After driving through Western Europe, drivers can go to Turkey via Yugoslavia and Greece, or via Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. They will cross the Soviet-Turkish border near the Soviet town of Batumi, and if there are civil disturbances in the city of Baku, they will traverse the Caspian Sea via Makhachkala.

The most difficult stretch then follows—over the Oxus river to Samarkand and through Tashkent and the Tianshan Mountains before entering China to cross the Gobi desert.

He's best known for playing the Catskills cossack in Dirty Dancing, but Patrick Swayze says he'd prefer the roles that once went to stars such as Spencer Tracy or Gene Kelly.

"I want to have a career like Spencer Tracy," Swayze said. "I want to do roles that have a positive impact." Swayze said in a recent interview.

"With the state of the world in, I'm looking for a hero," Swayze, 37, found a hero when he was growing up.

"I used my father as a pattern and the things he believed in and stood for are still important," said Swayze, whose father died in 1982. The two were very close, and Swayze recalled his father was "always there" during his childhood.

"He was a very neat man, a very gentle man. I got a very intense side from my mother and a very gentle side from my father," he said.

"Without the input of either of them, I'd never be who I am today," he said.

HONOLULU: Everyone knew who he was, but Tom Selleck introduced himself anyway when he made an unexpected appearance before the Kalamazoo neighborhood board.

Selleck spoke last week in favour of keeping the state-operated film studio at its present location on the back slopes of Diamond Head. A neighbourhood group has expressed concern over noise and traffic generated by the studio taking away from the natural beauty.

"I care about the film industry here," said Selleck, who has lived in the area for 10 years. The star of Hawaii-based Magnum PI is executive producer of Revealing Evidence, a TV movie that could become a Hawaii-based series. (AP)

NEW YORK: A mother persuaded Gerber Products Company to resume production of a line of baby formula for one customer—her severely handicapped son.

"We feel (it) is morally and ethically correct" to make the product for Raymond Deana Junior, a retarded 15-year-old allergic to almost everything except Gerber's meat-based brown liquid formula, George Davis, a Gerber vice-president, said in Thursday's New York Post.

Gerber also said it will provide the formula without charge to the boy. Raymond was born with an abnormally small brain. His mother, Carol Davis of Yankee Lake in the state's Cassiopolis region, had campaigned for five years to assure the boy's food source. (AP)

SALT LAKE CITY: The lead singer for the heavy-metal band Skid Row has been cited for disorderly conduct during a concert in Salt Lake City.

Sebastian Bach, 21 leader of the New Jersey-based band, was cited for using profane language, "thrusting his pelvis toward the crowd" and "grasping his groin," according to a police report.

Officers were especially alarmed due to the large number of audience members who were under 18, the report said.

Bach was ticketed after the performance at the Salt Palace, where the band shared a bill with Aerosmith. He agreed to appear in court before April 11, police Lt. Marty Vavik said.

LOS ANGELES: Singer Peggy Lee won the first round in a \$125 million lawsuit against Walt Disney Productions over video cassette release of Lady and the Tramp for which her voice was used for four characters.

She said Disney needed her approval before releasing the 1955 animated classic.

Los Angeles superior court Judge William Hues established Disney's liability in the case and now will schedule a trial, according to Daily Variety.

The paper said a Disney spokesman declined to say what steps Disney might take in the case. (AP)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Ready-to-wear clothes, accessories

Ivana to take up fashion line

NEW YORK, April 8, (AP)—Ivana Trump, whose estranged husband Donald said he paid her \$1 a year and all the dresses she wanted for running the Plaza Hotel, plans to make fashion her business, Women's Wear Daily reported.

Mrs Trump has decided to launch her own collection of ready-to-wear clothing, accessories, jewellery and luggage in 1992, according to the trade daily.

Mrs Trump refused to say who will manufacture these collections, WWD reported, but insisted they will be made by "top companies around the world." She said her licensing arrangements were being negotiated by "a major licensing company," which she wouldn't name, according to the daily.

RANDOR, Pennsylvania: Little House on the Prairie star Melissa Gilbert says her life is wonderful since her husband, actor, screenwriter Bo Brinkman, has received help for alcohol abuse.

"Our marriage counselor saved our lives and our marriage," the 25-year-old Miss Gilbert said in a recent interview.

Miss Gilbert, whose teen-age romance with actor, Rob Lowe was the stuff of tabloid columns, had been living apart from Brinkman since he became drunk and flew into a rage last year in Hong Kong where she was filming a TV movie, she said.

Miss Gilbert said she and Lowe

remain good friends since ending their relationship three years ago. "What we had was a passionate childhood infatuation," she said. "But, ultimately, I think we realised that although there was a lot of passion and fun between us, it was not the calm, something type of material you need for a marriage." (AP)

CARNATION, Washington: Wanted: One millionaire to help a small, rural district build a new school.

A Riverview School district citizens' group in this town near Seattle took out a \$175 advertisement in the Wall Street Journal, asking for someone to

donate \$1 million-plus for a school the district cannot afford to build. The group has received a few responses, but no big donations.

A Colorado stockbroker has offered to set up a charitable trust for wealthy people who don't have heirs. A special education professor said he will donate up to a year of his time. And a Virginian gave the group suggestions on how to set up a fund-raising network.

The advertisement, which ran Thursday, will be run once more without cost because the newspaper misspelled the district's name as Riverside.

"We'll be checking the mailbox everyday," said committee member Laura Ritter.



Pakistan International Airlines is pleased to announce the new Summer Schedule Effective 25th March, 1990, with convenient connections within Pakistan, to India and Far East.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

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SUNDAY	PK215	DEP(KHI)	1830	ARR(KWI)	1930
TUESDAY	PK213	DEP(KHI)	2230	ARR(KWI)	2330
WEDNESDAY	PK235	DEP(KHI)	2100	ARR(KWI)	2200
THURSDAY	PK215	DEP(KHI)	2000	ARR(KWI)	2100

KUWAIT/KARACHI

SUNDAY	PK216	DEP(KWI)	2045	ARR(KHI)	0145	MONDAY
TUESDAY/WED	PK214	DEP(KWI)	0055	ARR(KHI)	0555	WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	PK236	DEP(KWI)	2320	ARR(KHI)	0420	THURSDAY
THURSDAY	PK216	DEP(KWI)	2220	ARR(KHI)	0320	FRIDAY

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Swiss to allow dual nationality

GEVEVA, April 8, (Kuna)—The Swiss parliament has decided to allow foreigners to keep a double nationality as they become Swiss.

Reporting on a new law, which was passed last month, in its latest edition the weekly L'Hebdo said that this "amazing" overturning of Swiss legislation matured under pressure from events in Europe.

However, the possibility of keeping a double nationality depends on the conjunction of laws of the countries concerned. For the French, British, and Portuguese the road to a double nationality is now clear.

Some countries, though, such as Italy, Belgium, Spain, and the Federal Republic of Germany, call for an immediate loss of their nationality in the case of naturalisation abroad.

Considering that the current rate of demand for the Swiss passport is quite low (6000 to 7000 applications per year), will be possibility of keeping a double nationality stimulate further demand for the Swiss passport, L'Hebdo asked. There seem to be other factors involved, the weekly indicated.

Apollo 17 pilot dead

TOPEKA, Kansas, April 8. (AP)—Ronald E. Evans, who was Apollo 17 command module pilot on man's last trip to the moon, died of a heart attack at his Arizona home yesterday. He was 56.

The former astronaut died in his sleep and was found by his wife, Janet, his mother-in-law, Marge Pollock of San City, told the Topeka capital-journal.

Evans called his December 1972 flight to the moon Apollo 17 "the best experience I ever had in my life." He left the astronaut programme in 1977 to become an officer with Western American Energy Corp in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was in demand as a public speaker and travelled widely.

He was selected in 1963 for astronaut training and became an astronaut in 1966.

فكز انت الاول

INTERNATIONAL

Cubans want better US ties

HAVANA, April 8, (UPI): Cuba is prepared to improve its relations with the United States provided any talks include the possible removal of the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, a high-ranking official said yesterday.

"We are ready to talk with the United States on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocal benefit, quality and sovereignty," Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi told United Press International in an interview.

Sanchez said any agenda for future talks aimed at smoothing out relations between the two countries would have to include the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, immigration issues and telecommunications.

"We have to resolve with the United States the problem of the occupation of a part of Cuban territory. Now that it is in fashion to withdraw foreign troops from other countries... the United States must do the same thing with Cuba."

"We do not have any desire for US troops to remain on Cuban territory," Sanchez said.

The base at Guantanamo Bay, which covers a 45-square-mile (117-sq-km) area on Cuba's southeast coast, is the oldest US base on foreign soil and the only one in a communist-ruled country.

Americans have been there since 1898 when US marines stormed ashore during the Spanish-American war.

Washington broke diplomatic ties with Cuba in 1961 after President Fidel Castro confiscated US investments in banks and industries and seized large US landholdings. Castro's revolutionary forces ousted dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Sanchez, who spent 12 years as chief of the Cuban interests section in Washington until his appointment as deputy foreign minister last year, said the United States follows an "institutionalised policy of hostility and aggression against Cuba."

Sanchez said US conditions for improving relations, such as the staging of democratic elections and an end to Cuban involvement in Central America and Southern Africa, "is nothing but a cover for their policy of destroying Cuba."

"None of these points are important. They do not reflect problems of Cuban-US relations," Sanchez said.

Cuba has begun removing its advisers from Nicaragua since the leftist Sandinista Front lost the Feb 25 elections and Cuban troops have returned from Angola under a Namibian independence agreement.

"If they (the United States) talk about Guantanamo, TV Martí and immigration, then they will be talking about Cuban-US relations," Sanchez said.

■ **Colombia:** Authorities announced yesterday that Medellin drug trafficking cartel chief Pablo Escobar is planning to flee the country, and raised the death toll from a week of attacks on police officers to 20.

Newspapers reported the capture of a close Escobar associate, known as "El Zorro," implicated in the March 22 killing of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo, but the reports could not be independently confirmed with the police. Authorities accused Escobar of ordering the assassination.

National police operations chief Gen Octavio Vargas Silva said yesterday that Escobar, who heads the US Justice Department's list of the 12 most-wanted Colombian drug traffickers, has taken steps to obtain a false passport in order to flee a nation-wide manhunt.

■ **Nicaragua:** The army has agreed to allow a delegation of Contra leaders into Managua to sign a ceasefire that could bring about the disbanding of rebel forces by April 25, a source close to negotiations said yesterday.

In a related development, Violeta Chamorro said neither Defence Minister Humberto Ortega nor any other high-ranking Sandinista official will remain in the armed forces when she takes office April 25.

■ **Guatemala:** President Vinicio Cerezo has ordered an investigation into alleged police involvement in the kidnapping and torture of a US Ursuline nun, a lawyer for the churchwoman said yesterday.

Paul Soreff, representing Diana Mae Ortiz, is among a four-member delegation headed by Ursuline nun Francisca Wilhelm that arrived in Guatemala City tomorrow to investigate the case.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Discovery's astronauts arrive: The countdown began on Saturday for space shuttle Discovery and the launch of the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope.

Countdown for Tuesday's liftoff began at 3 pm (1900 GMT), an hour after the five astronauts arrived.

"It's been a long time happening, and now it's really here," said Discovery's commander, Air Force Col Loren J. Shriver. "This is the end of a fairly long wait... But I think in the case of this payload, the Hubble space telescope, it's well worth the wait."

Air force spokesman Ken Warren said forecasters expected a 90 per cent chance of favourable weather for a Tuesday launch. (AP)

'Phantom Head' back in space: It's known by NASA as the "Phantom Head" a human skull filled with sensors to measure the dose of space radiation that astronauts receive. The skull goes into space aboard the shuttle Discovery for the third and probably last time on Tuesday. It is kept in orbit by astronaut Kathryn Sullivan, hopes the trip will put an end to all jokes about the "phantom passenger."

"It's not a passenger. It's a device, actually a very sophisticated one and one that has considerable potential to provide some very significant data to all of the people within NASA who are trying to measure crew health," she said. (AP)

Farm Aid music with a message: A dizzying array of musical acts ranging from country veteran Don Williams to Soviet rock group Gorky Park drew about 45,000 fans on Saturday to Farm Aid IV, a benefit concert for America's beleaguered family farmers.

But as fans screamed and stomped their feet, concert co-sponsor John Mellencamp bitterly questioned the worth of the mega-concert. Mellencamp, who has been an organising artist for all four Farm Aid shows, said the series of concerts has not fulfilled its potential because of government apathy and poor media coverage. (UPI)

Aspirin to go on toxics list: The US State of California will require aspirin makers to warn women against taking the drug in the late stages of pregnancy, a state science panel has decided.

The panel has classified aspirin a "reproductive toxin" under a landmark toxics initiative law that requires public warnings for substances that pose a risk of cancer or birth defects.

The warnings — probably on aspirin labels — must appear within one year after a substance is formally listed in keeping with the state's decision. (AP)

Fourth body found in hotel: A fourth body was found on Saturday as authorities continued a search of the Fontana Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, swept by fire a day earlier as residents slept.

Fourteen tenants were still unaccounted for. Twenty-one hotel residents were taken to area hospitals on Friday, and five remained hospitalized in good condition on Saturday.

"We believe there are more victims inside," said police Capt. Rocco DeLoe. "What we are doing is getting details from relatives of people who we believe are missing and getting the physical characteristics of these persons." (AP)

Arts centre, director indicted: An arts centre and its director were indicted on Saturday in Cincinnati on obscenity charges for showing an exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs, which include depictions of partially naked children and homosexual themes.

The Hamilton County grand jury indicted the Contemporary Arts Centre and director Dennis Barrie on two misdemeanor counts each of pandering obscenity and illegally using a minor in nude-oriented material.

Prosecutor Arthur Ney urged the arts centre to remove seven photographs that were deemed obscene from the 175-photograph exhibit, but said authorities would not immediately confiscate them if the centre refuses. (AP)

Lindbergh biography authorised: Author A. Scott Berg will write a biography of Charles A. Lindbergh, authorised by the pioneering aviator's widow, the Putnam Berkley Group has announced in New York.

"Impressed by the thoroughness, objectivity and compassion of his previous works, Anne Morrow Lindbergh has granted A. Scott Berg complete access to the heretofore restricted Charles A. Lindbergh collections," said Mrs Lindbergh's attorney, James Lloyd.

Asia

Teacher sews up pupils' lips: A Chinese teacher has developed a new acupuncture technique to deal with intolerably noisy pupils, a Shanghai newspaper reported.

He sews their lips together. "From today on, anyone speaking in class will get their mouths sewn up like these two," declared teacher Wang Canzhao after putting acupuncture needles through the lips of two nine-year-old pupils in a school in Jiangsu province.

Their parents complained, the Shanghai Xinmin evening news reported on Saturday, and Wang was dismissed. (Reuters)

'Sleep apnea syndrome': For 10 years, Ichiro Wada, 35, suffered from severe drowsiness. He would sleep through business meetings and sometimes fall asleep just after breakfast.

Wada, the owner of a food company here, is afflicted with "sleep apnea syndrome," a sometimes fatal disease in which impulses from the respiratory centre of the brain are blocked for short periods of time during sleep.

Symptoms beside sleepiness are headaches and stiff shoulders. The primary symptom, however, is loud snoring, it was revealed. (Kuna)

Ishikawa to visit Asia: Yozo Ishikawa, director-general of the Defence Agency, plans to visit Australia, Thailand and Malaysia later this month to explain Japan's basic policy of arms buildup, the national daily Yomiuri Shinbun reported Sunday in Tokyo.



Anti-riot police

Peruvian anti-riot policemen wave to photographers as they patrol in downtown Lima April 7. The national presidential elections will be held today. (Reuters wirephoto)

US study

Abortion not a threat to health

WASHINGTON, April 8, (Reuters): A legal abortion early in pregnancy does not threaten most women's mental health, a team of US psychologists reported.

"Although there may be sensations of regret, sadness or guilt, the weight of the evidence from the best scientific studies indicates that legal abortion of an unwanted pregnancy in the first trimester does not constitute a psychological hazard for most women," the psychologists said in a new study to be published in science magazine.

The findings go further than a similar study prepared by then-US surgeon general C. Everett Koop in January 1989, which concluded that available data did not make it clear whether abortion does or does not cause or contribute to psychological problems.

The research team, led by Nancy Adler of the University of California-San Francisco, had been asked by the American Psychological Association to review the best available research on the topic and report its conclusions.

The psychologists examined 19 studies that met their criteria of being empirical rather than subjective. The studies, conducted in the United States, looked only at women who had undergone legal abortions.

"Negative emotions reflecting internal concerns such as loss, or social concerns such as social disapproval, typically are not experienced as much as positive emotions after abortion," the team of six psychologists wrote.



Future policewoman

A future policewoman (right) and a would-be fireman stroll through an alley near the new police academy recently created at Banaasa near Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ishikawa will be the first Japanese defence chief to visit the three countries after World War II.

He will assure leaders of the three nations that Japan will never become a military power although it will continue to beef up its defence capability, the daily said. (UPI)

Mongolia reshuffles government: Mongolia scrapped or merged 10 ministries and state committees on Saturday in a government

reshuffle apparently aimed at streamlining communist bureaucracy, the official East German news agency ADN reported in East Berlin.

It said a Ministry for Heavy Industry had been set up in the Asian nation for the first time and three ministries merged into one to cover agriculture, food and light industry.

The State Committee for Building was upgraded to a ministry but the sport and culture committee was scrapped, ADN said in a report from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator. (Reuters)

Japan issues final pardons: Japanese Emperor Hirohito has been dead for over a year but his legacy was completed only on Friday when the government pardoned two men convicted of attempted murder.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said they were the final two of nearly 10.2 million pardons issued to commemorate Hirohito's death on January 7, 1989. (Reuters)

Fulbright programme resumes: China has agreed to resume the Fulbright exchange programme for scholars, but on a smaller scale that will exclude the sending of graduate students to the United States, a US embassy official said Friday.

China abruptly cancelled the 1989-90 programme last August in anger over US criticisms of the military suppression of the student-led pro-democracy movement. (AP)

Dutch concerned: The Dutch government expressed concern Saturday over the planned execution of six more Indonesian political prisoners for taking part in a failed communist coup attempt a quarter century ago.

Visiting Dutch Minister for Development Co-operation and chairman of the 15-nation Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), Jan Pronk, conveyed his government's concern during his talks with Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Home Affairs Minister Rudini. (UPI)

Africa

Abidjan closes schools: Ivory Coast ordered all schools and the university closed on Saturday for the rest of the academic year, a day after police shot dead a student in the West African country's worst unrest since independence in 1960.

A communique on national radio declared the current academic year invalid and said students had been exploited as a "shield for destructive crowds."

The government of President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, 84, who has run the country for 30 years, reopened the schools only a week ago after closing them for a month to halt protests.

The high school student was shot dead by paramilitary police in the city of Abidjan, about 100 km (60 miles) north of the economic capital Abidjan. (Reuters)

Tanzania floods kill 35: Torrential tropical rainstorms have killed at least 35 people and made over 7,000 homeless in southern Tanzania after the worst flooding since 1942, the official Tanzania News Agency reported on Saturday.

Continuous rain since April 3 caused extensive flooding in rural areas around the coastal town of Lindi, 236 miles (370 km) south of Dar-es-Salaam, drowning at least 27 people, it said, and leaving a number of people unaccounted for.

Eighty miles (130 km) inland to the west, meanwhile, eight people were swept away and five seriously injured when a dam in Masasi district was damaged by the rain. (UPI)

Uganda meningitis toll 70: Outbreaks of meningitis have killed at least 70 people in western and northwestern Uganda, a government-owned newspaper reported on Saturday.

New Vision, a Kampala daily, said at least 50 people had died in the past two weeks in Kabarole district, about 300 kilometres (186 miles) west of the capital.

Latin America

Worker wins Lott: A Venezuelan worker won more than \$70,000 on Saturday in the nation's biggest lottery prize ever, the state news agency Vespres reported.

The man, identified only as Mr Betancourt, lives in a working class neighbourhood in Maracay, 68 miles (110 km) west of Caracas. He won the accumulated prize of 30.94 million bolivars (\$70,300) with numbers 14-09-25-21-23-24.

Officials of the popular Lotoniente Lottery game are to award the prize money on April 17, Vespres said. (Reuters)

Mexico prison riot, 1 dead: Mexican police put down a prison uprising in Tijuana sparked by a search for drugs on Saturday, and one prisoner was killed and six people injured in the violence, authorities said.

Police shot one man dead as prisoners, throwing rocks and bottles, closed in on officers brought in to help quell the riot, Jose Encinas Filatoff, federal police commander in Tijuana, said in a statement read to Reuters by telephone. (Reuters)

Cuban leaders saw Soviet fate: Havana's leaders knew decades ago that Soviet bloc communism was doomed because it strayed from its ideals and acted to prevent a similar fate for themselves, a Cuban economist and biographer said in Washington.

Carlos Tablada Perez, a professor at the University of Havana, visiting at the invitation of several leading US universities, said Cuba today is confident it has avoided such mistakes and is not simply another socialist system waiting to fall. (UPI)

Bees attack Mexican town: A swarm of bees — believed to be "killer bees" — attacked about 50 people in Mexico, seriously stinging at least nine, the government news agency reported Saturday.

The bees attacked people in the town of Tehuacan, some 120 miles (193 km) southeast of Mexico City in the state of Puebla, the official news agency Notimex said.

Poindexter found guilty of cover-up

Iran-Contra scandal

WASHINGTON, April 8 (AP): Former National Security adviser Jon Poindexter was convicted yesterday of conspiracy, obstruction and lying to Congress in the Iran-Contra scandal, which marred the last two years of Ronald Reagan's presidency.

A federal court jury found Poindexter guilty on all five felony charges against him. He could face up to 25 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines when he is sentenced June 11.

Poindexter's lawyers said they would appeal.

In reaching the verdict, jurors rejected Reagan's claim in videotaped testimony that no crimes were committed in his administration's secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to help the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.



Poindexter shown with wife Linda on April 7 arriving at court. (Reuters wirephoto)

"President Reagan was wrong and incorrect," said prosecutor Dan Webb, noting the earlier conviction of Poindexter's former aide Oliver North.

The jury foreman was quoted later as saying Reagan's testimony had little impact on the jurors' verdict.

"Mr. Reagan's testimony didn't play any more of an important role than any other testimony," Wayne Mitchell told Washington Post reporters in an interview. "Actually he didn't give much information."

In the courtroom, Poindexter stood grimly as Mitchell read the verdicts.

"Guilty," Mitchell said as the clerk read each of the five criminal charges aloud.

There was silence in the courtroom as the first verdict was returned and then a murmur as Mitchell continued to read guilty verdicts on each of the five counts.

Protest

"There's no question that even being charitable to Admiral Poindexter, he did it because he wanted to protect the political viability of Ronald Reagan. And I consider that to be a selfish motive," Webb said outside the courtroom.

A spokesman for President George Bush said he would have no comment on the verdicts.

During his five-week trial, Poindexter's lawyers maintained that he had followed Reagan's orders at all times.

But Reagan said in his videotaped testimony that he had instructed his aides to stay within the law at all times, and he knew that money from the Iranian arms sales was being diverted to the Contras.

"Reagan also said he didn't think Poindexter had made any false statements to Congress. The former president's videotaped testimony was a compromise that allowed him to avoid appearing in person at the trial."

Poindexter did not take the witness stand in his own defence during the trial. The jury deliberated for six days before reaching its verdict.

Webb said the prosecution team would meet in the next two weeks to make a sentencing recommendation to US district court Judge Harold Greene.

Poindexter's conviction "marks the end of a very difficult and very important trial in American history," he said.

"High men in government office who have the responsibility for the security of this nation ought not to be allowed to commit crimes to pursue their own self-interest," Webb said.

Poindexter is the third top Reagan administration figure convicted in the scandal. The others, North and former National Security adviser Robert McFarlane, have not served any jail time. North was convicted in a jury trial and McFarlane pleaded guilty.

Poindexter was convicted of conspiring with North, businessman Richard Secord and others to conceal the truth about Iran-Contra from Congress.

In an interview, Webb said the "others" included CIA director William Casey and McFarlane.

"We're naturally disappointed with the verdict in this case, but we're going to appeal it and we're going to keep fighting it as hard as we can," defence attorney Richard Becker said.

During the five-week trial, Poindexter's attorneys suggested that his actions were aimed at protecting the president.

Webb said a decision on whether prosecutors will recommend that Poindexter be given jail time will be made in consultation with independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, whose office has been investigating the Iran-Contra scandal since December 1986.

Experts assess overpopulation

US faces problem

PITTSBURGH, April 8, (AP): The crux of the world's population problem is not in the Third World, but in the United States, where "there are too many rich people, says population expert Paul Ehrlich.

Because of heavy consumption of goods and wasteful use of resources, the average US resident causes 20 to 100 times as much damage to the environment as the average person in the developing world, and rich people in the United States cause up to 1,000 times as much, the Stanford University professor said.

Ehrlich and other environmentalists spoke to about 1,200 people at a conference on solving global environmental problems.

"The most serious population problem in the world is right here in the United States," said Ehrlich. "The most common misperception of the population problem is that it's a problem of poor (people) who don't know how to use condoms. 'Actually, the problem in the world is that there are too many rich people.'"

He said the world population — 5.3 billion — has increased 50 per cent in the 22 years since he published the book "The population Bomb."

He and his wife, Anne Howland Ehrlich, who co-wrote the current book, "The Population Explosion," say this decade will be the turning point for global environmental problems.

"If we don't see some real action in this decade, it will probably be too late to avert some very serious problems," including inadequate food

production, global warming, species extinction and deforestation, said Mrs Ehrlich, associate director for the centre for conservation biology at Stanford.

Ehrlich railed against highly developed nations like the United States that he claims consume too much of the world's resources.

"The birth of a baby in the United States is something on the order of 20 to 100 times more disastrous for the life support systems of the planet as the birth of a baby in poor countries like Bangladesh or Venezuela," he said.

Most developing countries fall within the range, with Bangladesh among the poorest and Venezuela among the richest Third World countries, Mrs Ehrlich said.

She said she and her husband based the figures on 1987 statistics compiled by the United Nations on per-capita commercial energy consumption, an index used by environmentalists to measure damage to the earth.

People who drive gas-guzzling luxury cars, air-condition their homes and live from what Ehrlich calls "high-intensity hell-with-tomorrow agriculture" do far more environmental damage than subsistence farmers, he said.

But he was not promoting the idea that Americans should adopt a peasant lifestyle.

In highly affluent Sweden, the average person uses about 60 per cent as much energy as consumed by the average American, Ehrlich said.

Maoist guerrillas step up attacks on eve of Peru's presidential elections

LIMA, April 8, (Agencies): Maoist guerrillas stepped up attacks yesterday on the eve of Peru's presidential election, which looks increasingly like a two-man battle between celebrated novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and political unknown Alberto Fujimori.

A late surge by political neophyte Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, has dimmed Vargas Llosa's chances for a first-round victory. But the 54-year-old novelist, running on a free-market platform, is still the leading contender among the nine candidates.

Polls open at 8 am (1200 GMT) and close at 3 pm (1900 GMT).

Around 18 hooded gunmen from the Sendero Luminoso Shining Path guerrillas invaded a Lima slum. Shouting "the people will judge. The fight continues," they tried to set fire to shacks.

The men, armed with revolvers, were attacked by stone-throwing residents and arrested by a patrol, police said.

The Sendero guerrillas, unrivalled in Latin America for their ruthlessness, have launched a campaign to disrupt the elections, which they de-

scribe as a bourgeois farce.

In the town of Huancavelica in central Peru, police reported around 20 explosions overnight but no injuries. However, residents said four bodies with gunshot wounds were taken to the local morgue.

No more details were available.

In the central states of Ayacucho and Junin a three-day general strike called by the guerrillas began yesterday. All shops were closed and transport stopped, residents said.

Security was tight in Lima itself yesterday. But in the Andean highlands, the guerrilla stronghold, the

group had begun what it called an "annihilation campaign", killing and bombing at random.

Made up mainly of disaffected peasant youths and students, Sendero has fought since 1980 to turn Peru into a worker peasant state. More than 17,000 have died in its campaign of violence.

But the group, which avoids direct clashes with security forces, has failed to halt elections.

In last year's municipal elections, crowds of voters who face tough lines if they do not vote thronged the polling booths in all but a few violence-torn provinces.



Fujimori

Llosa

Hungarians return to vote

Runoff polls to elect first free Parliament since 1945

BUDAPEST, April 8, (Reuters): Hungarians were voting today in a runoff election for the nation's first freely-elected Parliament since 1945 and to finally bury four decades of communism. It was widely expected that the former communists will serve in the opposition.

A close race was expected between the front-runners from the first round of polling two weeks ago — the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum, which has a narrow lead, and the left-liberal Alliance of Free Democrats.

Polling stations opened their doors to 7.8 million electors at 6 am (0400 GMT) but initial voting was slow. Heavy rain swept much of the country and overall turnout was likely to be lower than the 65 per cent of the first round on March 25.

Hungary, nominally a parliamentary democracy during World War Two, was occupied by Soviet troops in 1945 and free elections were held. But Moscow helped the Communist Party crush multi-party rule and the party eventually took power in 1949.

A 39-year-old teacher, who cast her vote for the Free Democrats in Budapest's 12th district, said, "my father was shot by the Russians in November 1956 and since then we have been living in fear. I've come to vote for a life without fear and without lies."

Slovenia holds first free polls

Communist monopoly ends

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, April 8, (AP): Slovenians went to the polls today in the first free multiparty elections in Yugoslavia since World War II, formally ending 45 years of Communist Party monopoly in their republic.

The 1.5 million registered voters will choose Slovenia's new president, four members of the ruling collective presidency and 240 members of the new multiparty parliament.

The makeup of the new Slovenian parliament could determine whether the republic remains a part of Yugoslavia.

Some rightist parties are urging quick secession, while some leftist groups are for a more cautious approach. Most of the 17 parties taking part in the parliamentary elections are calling for Yugoslavia to become a loose confederation.

Slovenians are increasingly showing a desire to secede from Yugoslavia because they are unhappy with the slow pace of democratic and other reforms in the rest of the country.

Slovenian reform-minded communists have moved quickly over the past three years to create a pluralistic system in the republic.

Some 4,130 polls opened throughout the republic at 7 am (0600 GMT) for 12 hours. Preliminary results are expected tomorrow and official results are due Tuesday.

Electoral laws require a runoff on April 22 between the top two vote-getters if no presidential candidate gets more than 50 per cent.

Four candidates are running for president. The main campaign issues were Slovenia's future within the troubled federation, with its inflation-racked economy.

Milan Kucan, a candidate of the Reformist Slovenian Communist Party which recently renamed itself to the Party for Democratic Renewal, was ahead in the opinion polls for the presidency.

His toughest opponent for the top post in the republic was former dissident Jozse Pucnik, a candidate of the Demos, a coalition of five centre-right parties.

Pre-elections polls gave little chance to the other two presidential candidates.

They are restaurant owner Ivao Kramberger, who had to collect 6,000 signatures to become an independent candidate, and Marko Demšar, a medical doctor who is virtually unknown in politics.

The main task of the Demos is to oust communists from power in Slovenia and make parliamentary democracy work in the republic, Pucnik told reporters after casting his vote in his native Slovenska Bistrica.

Pucnik, a professor of philosophy, spent seven years in Slovenian prisons during the 1950s for his opposition to communism. He was forced to emigrate to West Germany from where he returned only last year after spending more than 20 years in exile.

"I never thought I would live to see the day when we bury single-party monopoly in Slovenia," high school teacher Janez Tomic said while casting his ballot in Ljubljana.

Premier Lee to quit party post
SINGAPORE, April 8, (AP): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew will relinquish his post as head of the ruling party before the next election in 1993 in addition to stepping down as prime minister later this year, his designated successor said yesterday.

First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong took a party gathering that without Lee at the helm of People's Action Party or Government, his successors must "fight and win their spurs on their own track record and ability to persuade the people to follow them."

Lee announced earlier that Goh, 48, would take over as prime minister "before the end of 1990."

Japan unreliable US ally, says survey

Opinion leaders value ties

TOKYO, April 8, (AP): An increasing number of Americans believe Japan is an unreliable ally, but most US opinion leaders continue to regard Japan as important to the United States, according to polls released today.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which commissioned the Gallup organization survey, said polls of 1,302 US citizens and 366 US "opinion leaders" were taken between January and March of this year.

It did not say how the opinion leaders, who responded to written questionnaires, were chosen. The margin of error for the surveys was not provided.

Forty per cent of the respondents from the general public said Japan is not a dependable ally, an increase of 11 percentage points from last year, when a similar survey was conducted.

Nonetheless, 44 per cent of the general group — down from 50 per cent in 1989 — said Japan is "dependable."

The poll also indicated a growing number of Americans — 46 per cent — characterised co-operation between the two countries as "fair."

Last year 40 per cent of the respondents said co-operation was either "good" or "fair."

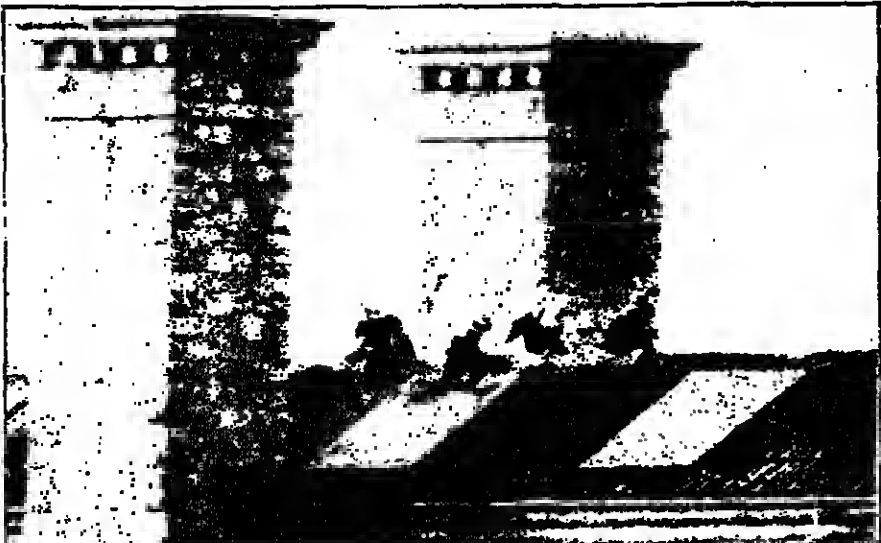
Almost two-thirds of the US opinion leaders surveyed rated Japan as more important to US long-range interests than China.

Seventy per cent of the respondents, up from 62 per cent last year, said the United States would find it easier to co-operate with China than Japan in striving for peace and stability in Asia.

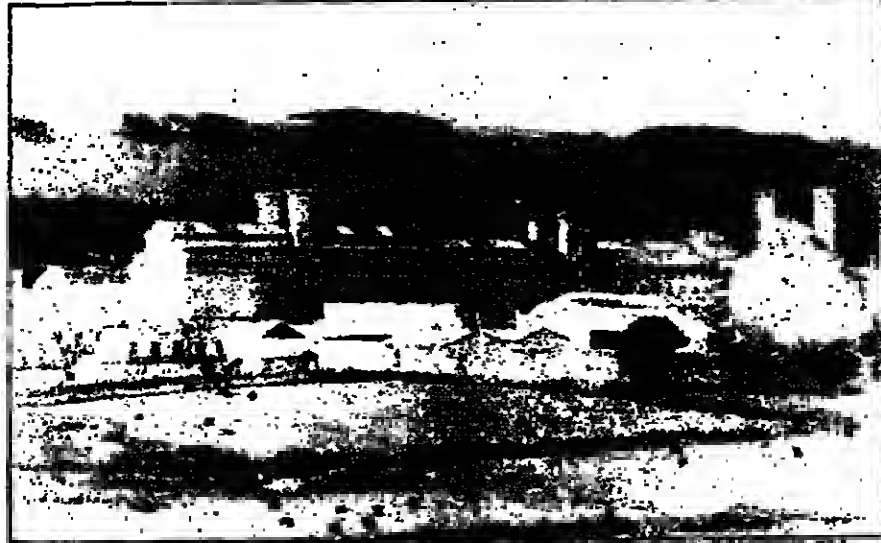
The results also pointed to overwhelming support — 85 per cent — for the US-Japan mutual security treaty.

However, the number of opinion leaders who thought US-Japanese co-operation was "good" declined from 54 per cent last year to 45 per cent. Respondents who said co-operation was only "fair" climbed to 41 per cent from 33 per cent.

The number of American leaders who said Americans and Japanese have a "poor" understanding of each other rose from 32 per cent to 41 per cent. Those who said mutual understanding was "fair" fell from 60 per cent to 53 per cent, and those who said it was "good" declined from 6 per cent to 3 per cent.



A group of prisoners stage a rooftop protest at the notorious Dartmoor prison. (Reuters wirephoto)



The D-wing of Dartmoor prison where up to 100 prisoners took control of the building.

New rioting erupts in UK prisons

100 inmates take over Dartmoor jail wing

DARTMOOR, England, April 8, (AP): Rioting broke out yesterday at Dartmoor prison in southwest England, the government said, as authorities in Manchester continued negotiations trying to end a seven-day uprising at Strangeways prison.

About 100 prisoners took control of Dartmoor prison's D wing and a few prisoners, wearing hoods, were on the roof, said Dartmoor Governor John May. Officials sealed off the wing in an attempt to contain the unrest but other inmates also took control of the roof of C wing, but not the wing itself.

May, speaking to journalists outside the prison, said there were reports of injuries but no fatalities. There are 602 inmates at Dartmoor, officials said.

The incident started when the D wing prisoners refused to return to their cells about 4 pm (2100 GMT) after a recreation period, a Dartmoor spokeswoman said.

May said prison officers had received intelligence that there would be trouble this weekend, but did not say what measures were taken to prevent it.

Prison Officers' Association head John Bartell said a search of the prison had turned up a hoard of weapons and some prisoners had been transferred.

The governor said he did not know what the prisoners' complaints were, adding that the handful of men on the roof had refused to talk to negotiators.

One of Britain's most famous prisons, Dartmoor was opened in 1809 to house French prisoners from the Napoleonic wars and is near Princetown in the remote and rugged moorland of Devonshire, 160 miles (260 kilometres) southwest of London.

A Home Office spokeswoman said the 100 prisoners at C wing had been evacuated.

There are 602 prisoners at Dartmoor, and as many as 120 inmates were involved in the disturbance, Bartell said.

The granite prison perched high on Britain's gloomiest moor, is constantly wreathed in mists and has housed some of Britain's most notorious criminals. But since the 1960s it has also housed category B prisoners — described as those for whom the highest security is not necessary.

At Strangeways, a Victorian-era structure, the number still on the loose was reduced to fewer than 25, prison Governor Brendan O'Friel said, and three more turned themselves yesterday afternoon.

Negotiators have said prisoners did not make any demands about conditions at the prison, where as many as three men were confined as long as 23 hours a day in cells designed for one occupant.

Strangeways had been one of the most crowded prisons in England. The prison was built in 1868 to house 970 male prisoners, but had 1,648 when the riot there broke out during a service in the prison chapel on April 1.

More than 1,500 inmates were involved in the rebellion.

The trouble began when mounted police moved a small group of unruly demonstrators away from Downing Street, site of Thatcher's residence, into Trafalgar Square.

Peaceful demonstrators already in the square misinterpreted the action, witnesses said, and thought the police were attacking the crowd.

"The police action infuriated the crowd. It ignited an explosion," said Peter Taffie, the General Secretary of militant tendency, a radical left-wing movement.

"Many of these young people are very angry — they are unemployed, harassed and have an accumulated hatred of the police," Taffie said in an interview. "All that fury came to the fore and they began attacking any symbol of society."

The New Statesman and Society carried an article by a 25-year-old Londoner identified only as Tony who said he threw rocks at police during the riot.

"The police won't come to terms with the fact that they're distressed and hated," he wrote. "It wasn't even about the poll tax; that was just the occasion for it. It was a young people's riot, a spontaneous outburst by people from all over the country."

UK tax riot raises questions

LONDON, April 8, (AP): A week after riots tore through the heart of London, Britons were still searching for explanations.

The immediate violence was touched off by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's unpopular poll tax, but underlying questions remained: Was it organized, or spontaneous? Should the police share the blame? Did it expose an underclass that has grown up feeding left out of the "property-owning democracy" Mrs Thatcher dreams of creating?

Police said 374 officers and 86 civilians were injured and 339 were arrested in last weekend's clashes.

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Dr Jack Young, a socialist at Middlesex Polytechnic, said the incident brought latest animosity to the surface.

"The young people are living in a very affluent society. It is the relative deprivation which creates the disaffected and starts to create cultures of violence, particularly among young men," Young said.

Phil Kelly, editor of the left-wing weekly Tribune, said anarchy attracts the alienated.

"Their whole contact with authority is unpleasant. They are living in illegal squats or derelict buildings. The only contact they have with the police is when they get stopped because of the way they look," Kelly said.

A senior Conservative parliamentarian yesterday warned Thatcher, to revise a new "poll tax" or lose the next election.

Thatcher critic Julian Critchley told a constituency meeting that opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock would become the next prime minister unless government ministers forced Thatcher into a full-blooded revision of the tax.

Officials from 100 nations gather London hosts drug meeting

LONDON, April 8, (AP): Ministers and senior officials from more than 100 nations gather in London tomorrow for a three-day conference on ways to reduce the appetite for illicit drugs, particularly cocaine.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Colombian President Virgilio Barco and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will address the opening session of the world ministerial drugs summit.

"The drug issue is growing in significance month by month and year by year," said Home Office Minister David Mellor. "The more we look at the issue, the more apparent it is that international co-operation is not an option, but a necessity."

He singled out Barco as "a courageous representative of a drug nation struggling against drug traffickers."

The conference, organised by the British government in association with the United Nations, follows up on the international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, which was held in Vienna in June 1987.

That conference agreed for the first time on an overall approach to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reducing narcotics trafficking.

British officials said the London conference would follow the same approach.

Britain has invited all members of the United Nations and all non-member observer states. Mrs Chalker said her government is paying the expenses of delegations from some developing countries.

Mellor said the conference was concentrating on cocaine because "cocaine has suddenly come from nowhere to be the principle drug of misuse, not only here but elsewhere in the world."

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INTERNATIONAL

East German coalition agrees to share ministries



Ratiu announces he will run for president in Romanian elections.

Past gone forever, pledges Iliescu

BUCHAREST, Romania, April 8, (AP): Interim President Ion Iliescu, opening his party's campaign for the first free elections in more than 50 years, promised Romanians they had made a permanent break with the communist past.

In a 45-minute speech yesterday opening the first national conference of his National Salvation Front, Iliescu rejected opposition allegations that the front operates like the old Communist Party. Instead, he said, it is a modern organisation with democratic aims.

"The obvious catastrophe that the country was heading for (under Nicolae Ceausescu) set the conditions for a total rupture with the past," Iliescu told an audience of nearly 1,000 people.

"The National Salvation Front will avoid any kind of dogmatism," he said. "The Front declared a break with the communist structures... a return to the past is impossible."

Despite Iliescu's declarations, initial proceedings at the conference bore some of the hallmarks of such gatherings under communism in Romania.

Demoted
Votes on adopting conference procedure were taken without asking for votes against or abstentions. Delegates raised their hands mechanically, and several rushed to the stage after Iliescu spoke to face him with flowers, handshakes and kisses.

Iliescu was a leading communist official until he argued with Ceausescu in 1971 and was demoted to a series of jobs in the provinces. He was then brought back to Bucharest, where he worked before the revolution in a relatively lowly job as editor of a technical magazine.

Iliescu took over as interim president when the National Salvation Front seized power immediately after Ceausescu fell on Dec 22. Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed by the revolutionaries on Christmas Day.

While forced since January to share power, the Front remains the dominant political force.

Romania's re-emerging pre-World War II parties, the National Liberal Party and the National Peasant Party, have led opposition charges that Iliescu is still a communist who does not promote Western-style democracy.

The election platform Iliescu outlined yesterday was apparently aimed at reassuring Romanians that they would not lose the security communism promised them while the country makes economic and other advances.

He won prolonged applause when he declared that private enterprise should not exploit workers, who he said need protection from inflation and unemployment through a welfare programme.

He did not however explain how Romania would attract foreign investment, overhaul its outdated infrastructure and have enough cash left for unemployment benefits.

Iliescu is virtually assured nomination by the two-day conference as the Front's candidate for presidential elections to be staged May 20 concurrent with the first free parliamentary elections since 1937.

On Friday, Ion Ratiu, a millionaire businessman of Romanian stock who spent 50 years in exile in Britain before the December revolution, was nominated the Peasant Party presidential candidate.

Radu Campeanu will run for the National Liberation Party.

EAST BERLIN, April 8, (Reuters): After weeks of doubt, the shape of East Germany's first non-communist government has begun to crystallise with party agreement on a share-out of ministries in a "grand coalition".

Leaders of the two major parties, the Christian Democrats (CDU) and Social Democrats (SPD), said after six hours of coalition talks last night they were confident a cabinet could be presented to parliament for approval before Easter.

Two previous coalition meetings were marked by rough consensus on priorities for approaching unification talks with West Germany, but also by SPD reservations about joining a government including a rightist ally of the CDU.

But the impasse appeared to break yesterday when leaders of the CDU-led alliance for Germany bloc, the SPD and a Liberal Party Amalgam reached

tentative agreement on the distribution of 24 cabinet posts envisaged for the new government.

Martin Kirchner, general secretary of the CDU, told reporters the dominant party emerging from East Germany's first free elections on March 18 would probably get 11 ministries.

CDU chairman Lothar de Maiziere has already been designated prime minister by Parliament and his party was also expected to garner the Economy Ministry among other key portfolios.

Kirchner said the SPD was in line for six cabinet seats, one of them likely to be labour and social affairs. This could satisfy the SPD's overriding concern to guarantee East Germans' generous social net in a future pan-German market economy.

Three ministries each would be awarded to the German Social Union (DSU), the CDU's small rightist election partner, and the liberal bloc, Kirchner said.

The third member of the alliance, Democratic Awakening, would get one ministry.

"We want to announce we firmly believe we can put together a government by Thursday. That is the honest common will of all parties," Kirchner said, reading a joint statement signalling an end to SPD footdragging over a coalition.

SPD spokesman Reinhard Hoepfner said a grand coalition was "not yet in the bag," an allusion to lingering differences on security and constitutional issues, but there was little chance of it falling apart now.

A fourth round of negotiations was set for tonight to iron out disagreement over policy plans sure to figure prominently in merger negotiations due to begin once a viable government is installed in East Berlin.

Conservative leaders in Bonn and East Berlin

want a pan-German federal state to inherit West Germany's membership in the Nato alliance. The SPD favours eventual demilitarisation and a dissolution of the two military blocs in Europe.

Another sticking point was how much West Germany's basic law, or constitution, should be amended when it replaces East Germany's constitution as the legal basis of a United State.

The CDU-led alliance sailed to a 48 per cent victory in the March 18 elections that lowered the curtain on 40 years of communist rule in East Germany, four months after a popular uprising overthrew the entrenched Stalinist elite.

The Soviet ambassador to Bonn, Yuri Kvitsinski, is to represent Moscow in the "two-plus-four" talks between the two Germanys and the four World War Two victor powers, the news magazine Der Spiegel said.



Maiziere (left) gestures next to Willem Ebeling.

Split in Latvian party

Rally in Lithuania stokes fresh tension between Baltics and Kremlin

RIGA, Soviet Union, April 8, (Agencies): A split in the Latvian Communist Party and a huge rally supporting the independence declaration in Lithuania stoked fresh tension between the rebellious Baltic region and the Kremlin.

Nearly one third of the 792 delegates to the Latvian party congress in Riga, seeking independence for the Latvian state and party, walked out when the conservative majority tried to defer the meeting until mid-year.

"The aim is clear — to renew Latvian statehood and form an independent Latvian Communist Party," Ivars Kebzars, the party's ideology secretary told 264 pro-independence delegates.

Members of the pro-independence group said they would meet next Saturday in Riga to establish their own party. Officials, unworried about their minority position, said they were confident they would attract more new members than the pro-Soviet wing.

In the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius up to 300,000 people attending a rally cheered as Lithuanian leaders said they would not rescind the March 11 independence declaration.

"Iron will melt to wax and water will turn to stone before we will retreat," declared Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis.

The gathering also drafted an appeal to Gorbachev asking him to launch talks on independence as soon as possible.

As the rally began, a military helicopter dropped leaflets in Russian urging Lithuanians to abandon the independence claim.

But Landsbergis told the crowd: "Stay calm, they have been littering the country for 70 years, litter always ends up on the rubbish heap."

Moscow has been piling increasing military pressure on the republic, sending in troops to occupy key buildings and dismissing a Lithuanian-appointed public prosecutor. Convoys of armoured vehicles also paraded.

Lithuania has said it is willing to discuss all aspects of independence with Moscow but says declaration is non-negotiable.

A junior member of the Soviet politburo warned Latvian communists yesterday not to follow the path of neighbouring Lithuania, saying their future would be bleak if they broke with Moscow.

Junior politburo member Boris Pugo, a former Latvian party chief and now head of the Soviet party control commission, urged Latvian communists not to imitate rebel Lithuania, whose party formally split with Moscow in December.

"You know that the Communist Party of Lithuania was weakened by its decision to become independent, both in the

Lithuania
Freedom in 5 years

NEW YORK, April 8, (Reuters): The breakaway Soviet republic of Lithuania might become independent within five years through constitutional means, including a referendum, a Soviet spokesman said yesterday.

In a television interview, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said a law recently passed by the Soviet Congress and backed by President Mikhail Gorbachev allows independence for constituent republics following a referendum.

Asked how many years it would take for Lithuania to become independent, Gerasimov said, "not more than five, by this law."

elections and in losses of membership," Pugo said in a speech to the Congress. "Is there any point in repeating that sad experience here?"

Such a break with Moscow would be even more damaging for the Latvian party, because of the relatively small percentage of the indigenous population, Pugo said. Most Russians and other non-Latvians want to keep links with Moscow.

The newly-elected radical rulers of two major Soviet cities have begun flexing their muscles, demanding the return of a cathedral to the persecuted Ukrainian Catholic church and sacking a Leningrad television chief.

In the western Ukrainian city of Lvov, the local council voted overwhelmingly to force the Russian Orthodox Church to hand back the city's cathedral to the Catholics in time for Easter, a councillor said yesterday.

The radical majority in Leningrad, meanwhile, dismissed the local television boss after he refused to screen an interview with a controversial prosecutor who has angered the Kremlin with his probes into top-level corruption.



A large rally gathers in Vilnius Park in Vilnius, Lithuania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit vital: Gorby

MOSCOW, April 8, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said the forthcoming superpower summit was vital to tackle German unification and other key issues in Europe.

Gorbachev, in an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda, said Europe would be high on the agenda of his May 30 - June 3 talks with US President George Bush. Parts of the interview were carried by the Tass news agency yesterday.

The Soviet leader, speaking after Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held talks in Washington, said the superpowers held the key to overseeing the changes sweeping through Europe.

"Their responsibility is to ensure that these changes, German reunification above all, proceed constructively, harmoniously and in the interest of all of Europe and the world," he was quoted as saying.

"This is a very responsible moment and the American President and I have much to think over together," Gorbachev said in remarks released yesterday that the success of his summit with president Bush will depend on whether arms control agreements are reached.

Gorbachev said in an interview with the Tass news agency released yesterday that the main task of the summit, to be held in Washington, "On this depends, mainly, the success of the meetings," Gorbachev said.

The president did not elaborate.

Most Americans believe good relations with Gorbachev are more important than immediate US recognition of an independent Lithuania, a poll released yesterday indicated.

The survey of 601 people, conducted by the Gallup organisation for the April 16 issue of Newsweek magazine, found that 59 per cent favoured trying to maintain good relations with Gorbachev, while 27 per cent favoured recognising Lithuania as an independent nation. Fourteen per cent were undecided.



Demonstration

A Georgian woman weeps in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, as thousands of demonstrators gathered to commemorate the first anniversary of last April 9 killings when 20 demonstrators died after troops used poison gas to disperse a rally in Georgian capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets reject missile ban plan

NEW YORK, April 8, (AP): The United States last month secretly proposed a ban on some land-based missiles with multiple nuclear warheads but the Soviet Union said the plan was too limited, according to a published report.

The New York Times reported in its today's editions that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev responded to the proposal last week, complaining that it excluded submarine-based ballistic missiles.

A letter containing Gorbachev's reply was delivered to President George Bush on Friday by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the paper said, quoting administration officials it didn't name.

The White House refused to confirm the offer or

refusal, the Times said.

The offer signals an attempt by Bush to put his stamp on arms reduction talks which thus far have followed proposals made during the Reagan administration, the Times said.

The rejection of the proposal caught the White House by surprise, the Times said, adding that Bush administration officials believe the Soviet Union's tougher position reflects a move by Soviet military officials to assert themselves.

One unidentified White House official told the Times that Secretary of State James Baker first presented the proposal to Shevardnadze last month in Namibia, where both were attending independence ceremonies.

20 killed in SA fighting

For Mandela family

Luxurious home

JOHANNESBURG, April 8, (Reuters): The Mandela family will move into their luxurious Soweto home soon, the African National Congress (ANC) said yesterday.

The modernist, yellow brick 15-room mansion has been empty for almost two years since Winnie Mandela, wife of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, was criticised for poverty.

From its balcony, a short walk from the family's old house in Soweto's Orlando West, there are views across the rest of South Africa's biggest township, where two million people are crammed into a sea of tiny, two-roomed bungalows.

The statement from ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo said Mandela and his family needed a larger house because of his duties as the organisation's deputy president.

Winnie, herself a symbol of black resistance, has been reluctant to discuss the house, completed in 1988. It is said to have been built with royalties from her book, "Part of my soul," and from a family trust fund formed by concerned friends.

Since his release after a 27-year incarceration, Mandela has battled to squeeze large visiting delegations into his old house and to hold news conferences and conduct ANC meetings in the four-room building with its tiny yard.

the preceding 24 hours, police said yesterday they had fired shotguns at a crowd in Kokosi township southwest of Johannesburg after firebombs and stones were thrown at a police vehicle, injuring one policeman in the face.

Police said "a 32-year-old woman was wounded, and regrettably, a child which she had been carrying was fatally injured" by the gunfire.

In Natal province, where supporters of the ANC have been battling members of the Zulu-based Inkatha movement, the police report said 19 more people had been killed, raising the death toll to at least 86 in less than two weeks.

The police said 14 people, including a baby, three women and 10 men, had been killed since

Experts call for aid to Africa

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, April 8, (AP): Relief experts called yesterday for a concerted international aid effort to break the cycle of war and social upheaval in struggling African nations.

Officials with international programmes or agencies assisting refugees also told a symposium at Yale University that relief work must provide ways for the millions of people displaced by civil strife, persecution or natural disasters to help themselves.

Catherine O'Neill, who specialises in problems facing women for the International Rescue Committee, said tragic situations that refugees face are made worse because they often lead to "cycles of dependency."

As an example, she cited the plight of Afghan refugees who have been in Pakistan for 10 years while rebels waged a bloody campaign to overthrow the Kabul government.

"The hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars spent by international agencies and organisations during that 10-year period were not directed toward women's needs," she said.

"Everyone was content to sit back and let an entire generation of women go uneducated," she said. "The neglect also left children uneducated, raising the prospect of a cycle that puts these people in a society that needs widespread reconstruction but gives them little to build upon."

"When we talk to these women and ask them what they want, they say, 'we want to help shape the destiny of our own people.' The major donor agencies, it had not occurred to them" that this might be a possibility.

Discussion
Donald Krumm, a US State Department adviser on refugee assistance, opened a discussion on the Horn of Africa with a terse appraisal.

"It's a mess," said Donald Krumm, who worked on the problem of refugee flows in Malawi and Sudan in 1985 and 1986. He warned it could worsen if relief workers and agency officials fail to keep the region's problems in the international spotlight.

He said the plight of North Africans gained attention when television images of starving Ethiopians shocked the world in the mid-1980s, but that the crisis is now overshadowed by political changes sweeping other regions.

"There's no mistake about it. Money is going to Eastern Europe to help, food is going to Eastern Europe to help and that food comes from somewhere. It comes from a pot, and that can mean less for situations like the Horn of Africa," Krumm said.

The Sudanese ambassador to the United States stressed that assistance for refugees in his nation "must be taken from the position of relief to increased self-reliance."

"The citizens of Sudan have taken it upon themselves to accommodate the refugees who flood the region from other countries in the region," Abdall Ahmed Abdalla said.

He said aid and services provided by the UN High Commission for Refugees "is minimal."

"Burden-sharing should be considered, and the international community should look into this so it can do more."

Dawit Wolde-Giorgis, who headed the Ethiopian commission that organised relief efforts from 1982-86, said the world now seems to be ignoring the Horn of Africa. The region made up of four nations — Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti — has an estimated 2 million refugees.

According to UN estimates, there are 660,000 Ethiopian refugees in Sudan; 325,000 Somali and 375,000 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia; 600,000 Ethiopian refugees in Somalia, and 1,500 Ethiopians and 30,000 Somalis in Djibouti.

Soviets who helped clean up Chernobyl to get new benefits

MOSCOW, April 8, (AP): Soviets who helped clean up the world's worst nuclear accident will get free vacations, extra medical care and a whole array of other benefits, Pravda reported.

More than 100 radiation victims who were denied proper hospital care because of a drug and bed shortage began a hunger strike in the Ukraine last month to demand better treatment, the Tass news agency reported a week ago.

Beginning this summer, people who

worked within 20 miles of the Chernobyl atomic power plant after its 1986 explosion and fire will get lowered rents.

They will also be placed at the front of waiting lists for hospitals and better apartments.

Tass said President Mikhail S. Gorbachev asked the Soviet Trade Union Council to ensure that children from contaminated areas spend their summer vacations in medical centres and rest homes nationwide. He told governments to make spaces for these children before May 1, and ordered that one sanatorium normally used for government officials be turned over to the children.

The moves appeared to answer the hunger strikers' main demands.

The Soviet government also plans to organise an additional medical checkup this year for all the cleanup workers and keep them under closer medical supervision in general.

The April 26, 1986, fire and explosion at the Chernobyl plant, located in the Kiev region of the Ukraine, killed at least 31 people.



Residents in Muslim west Beirut stand in line to fill their plastic jerrycans with drinking water. Water and electricity have been cut since February when battles erupted between rival Christian warlords. (Reuters wirephoto)

Don't intervene between Christians

Aoun warns Hirawi

BEIRUT, April 8. (Agencies): Defiant General Michel Aoun, holding out in his battle-scarred presidential palace, on Saturday warned troops loyal to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi against intervening in Lebanon's inter-Christian war.

He said mediation had so far failed to find a solution to the nine-week inter-Christian war in which at least 920 people have been killed and huge tracts of the Maronite heartland devastated.

Aoun told Reuters that the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and his 15,000-strong army had reached a stalemate on the battlefield and neither side could win outright.

"Military action will not determine the final result... we have to give more importance to political achievement," he said.

Aoun triggered the war for the control of the Christian heartland on January 31 when he ordered the 10,000-man LF to disarm and disband.

He said he favoured a political solution with the LF but ruled out a pact with the internationally-recognised Hrawi government which is based in West Beirut.

Hirawi has said he would meet a request from LF leader Samir Geagea to send his mainly-Muslim troops, commanded by General Emile Lahoud, to take over barracks captured by the LF from Aoun.

The barracks are in an LF-held area north of Christian East Beirut which is paralysed by a web of frontlines and daily clashes between the LF and Aoun's soldiers.

"I would like to tell Lahoud and the others (in Hirawi's government) don't intervene between the

Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army (led by Aoun)."

Asked if he would fight a combined LF-Lahoud force, Aoun said: "We will not accept that the Lebanese Forces be covered by the Hrawi government. We will see what happens on the ground and we will act in an appropriate way."

But he said he doubted Lahoud's troops would thrust into the enclave.

"I do not think that the Lahoud army on its own will fight my army because all the troops are the Lebanese armed forces," Aoun said.

He dismissed as fruitless weeks of mediation between himself and Geagea by a committee of Christian intermediaries, foreign diplomats and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir.

● The commando group of terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal on Saturday pleaded with the kidnappers of two Swiss Red Cross workers to release them.

The statement signed by a spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council identified as Mansour Hamdan said: "In these moments when arrangements are under way to release some hostages and captives, I issue this brotherly appeal to the side that kidnapped Elio Erriquez and Emmanuel Christen, the two Swiss workers for one of the International Red Cross centres in Lebanon... to solve this problem."

Hamdan offered in the typewritten statement the "movement's readiness to provide all the guarantees demanded by the kidnappers to solve this tragedy."

Sudan plans to introduce 'democratic system'

KHARTOUM, April 8. (AP): Sudan's military government plans to introduce a new legislative system that will be more democratic than the current Libyan-style committee lawmaking process, a senior officer said.

The newspaper Al-Sudan Al-Hadith quoted Brigadier Osman Ahmed Al Hassan, member of the ruling 15-officer junta, as saying the system will be "a comprehensive one, embracing all sectors."

He did not specify how the new system will work but said it "will seek to meet the aspirations of the people in freedom and democracy... more global and superior to people's committees now in operation."

Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir's military government took power in a coup last June 30 and disbanded political parties and trade unions. The junta exercised its authority through a cabinet of officers and civilians.

Several months ago, Al-Bashir introduced people's committees in neighbourhoods to administer shops and prevent black marketeering.

He took as his model Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi's Jamahiriya system, which Khaddafi contends is the purest form of democracy because it eliminates elected representatives as middlemen in the exercise of power.

Later, after Al-Bashir signed an "integration declaration" with Khaddafi aiming to unify the two countries in four years, he used the Sudanese committees to ratify the document. No other legislative process existed in the country.

Brigadier Al-Hassan did not say when the new system is to be implemented. But he said the ruling military council will meet soon to review "the best means through which the desired formula for the new political system can be reached."

Al-Bashir has lashed out strongly at the rebels in south Sudan, calling them "outlaws, fake and renegades," and urged them to stop wiping out themselves and

their fellow countrymen.

Speaking in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily Al-Bashir said that the Khartoum government has been finding it difficult to deal with the rebels, due to the many ideologies they adopt and the various parties they are loyal to.

Reviewing the history of rebel movements in the Sudan, he said such movements have always been without a cause or goals.

Another Kuwaiti daily confirmed earlier press reports in London that two Sudanese ministers had resigned from Al-Bashir's government.

'We've had enough': politicians criticised

Massive Israeli demo for electoral reforms

TEL AVIV, April 8. (Reuters): More than 150,000 Israelis, incensed by politicians' public baggaging to form a new government, staged a massive demonstration for electoral reform.

Police would not give an official estimate of the crowd at yesterday's peaceful rally but one senior police officer said it was the largest protest held in the Jewish state.

Organisers said 250,000 people packed into Tel Aviv's Kings of Israel

Square and city officials said at least 150,000 took part.

People carried banners proclaiming "we've had enough" and "one hundred and twenty criminals are running the country."

As speakers criticised the moral standards of politicians vying to form a government, Avraham Sharir, a right-wing hawk announced his defection to Labour in a letter attacking former colleagues in the rightist Likud Party.

He said he was abandoning Likud due to "a continued sense of rejection by the leadership."

His defection will likely give Labour leader Shimon Peres the majority he needs when he asks the 120-member Parliament to make him prime minister on Wednesday.

The letter also accused Likud leaders of "ruling as a malevolent dictatorship," constantly breaking promises, and causing emotional suffering to Sharir and his family.

Since Peres toppled the coalition government in a vote of no confidence last month his attempts to build a new partnership without Likud have had little to do with ideology.

In a deal that threatened to shake the support of his traditional leftist allies, he made a deal with the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel Party, which opposes abortion, Sabbath entertainment and other causes the left supports.

Political sources say Peres also promised Sharir a seat in a nominally-Socialist cabinet.

A Peres government would pursue Middle East peace through unprecedented talks with Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and delegates expelled from the occupied lands on security grounds.

Sharir and four colleagues, fearing that Shamir's party might adopt the very policies espoused by Peres, split from Likud and formed an independent faction last month.

Shamir, who dumped the former justice and tourism minister as a political liability after 1988 elections, last week offered him and his fellow-renegees safe parliamentary seats and cabinet portfolios in a bid to retain their support.

The proposed deals sparked a protest movement by Israelis who are frustrated with the system of proportional representation which can make major parties dependent on small factions holding the balance of power.

"New deals have been made at such a low level of morality that it makes a lot of people angry, including me," Soviet Jewry activist Nathan Sharansky told reporters at the rally.

"This is only the beginning, we must carry on until there is change, for our sakes and for our children's sakes," said Avid Kadish, one of the originators of the campaign.

"We call on all Arab and Islamic countries to form a united Arab army," the statement said.

It said: "We call on all Muslims, who believe in martyrdom until the liberation of all the sacred Islamic lands occupied by the Israeli enemy, to immediately join."

The statement did not say where volunteers should go.

The movement also called on Arabs to "revive the Eastern Front, within an Arab and Islamic deterrent force, to fend off any possible Israeli attack on the Arab and Islamic nations."

The Brotherhood group, along with several other less extremist Islamic factions, have called for reviving the Eastern Front, which includes Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the PLO.



Israeli protesters with a placards of all sizes, flags and balloons call for electoral reforms Saturday night during a mass rally attended by 100,000 people in one of Israel's biggest ever demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jihad: Death to Israel

'God will punish who harms Palestine'

AMMAN, April 8. (Reuters): "The killing of the Jews will continue, killing in God's name until they vanish," says the friendly elderly Muslim cleric, fingering his long white beard.

"Anyone who harms Palestine will be punished by God sooner rather than later."

Sheikh As'ad Bayoud Al-Tamimi, a Palestinian, says he is the leader of Islamic Jihad-Bait Al Maqdis (Jerusalem), the group which claimed responsibility for killing nine Israeli tourists in an attack on a bus in Egypt in February.

He says Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a chance to go down in history as another Saladin, the Arab hero in the struggle against the Crusaders, after his threat last week to blast Israel with chemical weapons if it attacked Iraq.

"I hope he is as good as his word," he told reporters.

Tamimi says he founded Islamic Jihad in 1980, adding the Beit Al Maqdis tag later to distinguish it from unrelated namesakes such as the pro-Iranian Lebanese Shi'ite group.

His organisation emerged in the public eye near the start of a 28-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Last week it claimed the stabbing of a Jewish student in East Jerusalem.

Tamimi believes he may be the target for an Israeli hit squad but strangers visiting his modest ground-floor apartment in Amman are not checked for concealed weapons.

Tamimi is 66 and wants to be buried next to his father in his home town of Hebron in the West Bank, where he lived until Israel seized the area from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

"There is not much of my life left," he told Reuters in an interview, mentioning an illness which has left him too weak to preach in the nearby mosque. "I should have lived in my country, in Hebron or Jerusalem like other humans."

"But the Jews have denied me my land and my home. They have denied me my father's grave."

The Jordanian authorities do not molest Tamimi, though he has served several prison terms in the past for political activity, and he says he has no quarrel with the government.

While he blesses any anti-Israel action, Tamimi denies organising raids across the Jordanian ceasefire line, unsettled by a spate of small-scale attacks in the past year.

Nevertheless a communiqué published in Beirut by a group calling itself Islamic Jihad-Bait Al Maqdis said its fighters had fired two rockets into Israel from Jordan on March 31.

"I am against using the East Bank (of Jordan) to hit the Jews because we concentrate on work on the inside," Tamimi says. "It seems the region is approaching that looks like war and we don't want to be the cause for exploding the situation."

"It is funded by the Umma (nation). All the people of Palestine are members. We are not a political party or group of faction. We are the nation's conscience and anyone who resists Israel belongs to us, whether he is a member or not."

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"But the Jews have denied me my land and my home. They have denied me my father's grave."

Mubarak names new air force chief

CAIRO, April 8. (Agencies): President Hosni Mubarak named a new air force commander yesterday, former fighter pilot Major General Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Nasr.

He replaces Major-General Ala Barakat. The presidential decree gave no reason for the change.

Nasr, 56, was Air Force Chief of Staff. He took part in three Arab-Israeli wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973.

Mubarak, returning from an unscheduled visit to Iraq, stopped over in Jordan for talks with King Hussein.

The officials news agency Petra said Mubarak arrived last night for discussions on Arab and international issues but gave no details. He returned to Cairo today.

Mubarak's trip to Baghdad yesterday followed a furor over remarks by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He said last Monday his ally had sophisticated chemical weapons and threatened to burn half of Israel if it attacked him.

Israel and the United States condemned the threat but Saddam Hussein won strong support in the Arab world. Mubarak said on Friday his ally had been provoked by international hostility.

"He has no aggressive intentions against anyone but he found himself facing an intensified world campaign against Iraq," Mubarak said.

Egyptian officials have said Mubarak was urging Saddam privately to tone down the war of words. Cairo hopes to host a first-ever meeting between Israelis and Palestinians on peace moves.

Commenting on Mubarak's visit to Baghdad, Egyptian daily "Al Akhbar" affirmed that the trip to Baghdad was of great importance since it came at a time when the western anti-Iraqi propaganda campaign had reached a climax.

The daily, in its editorial today, was of the opinion that the campaign aims at thwarting peace efforts in the Middle East.

Deploping this propaganda against Iraq, Al Akhbar said that history might repeat itself, as the Israeli air strike in 1981 of the unfinished Iraqi nuclear reactor was preceded by a similar media campaign.

Rabta fire was fake, says Post

WASHINGTON, April 8. (Agencies): Satellite photographs show that the burn marks believed to have been left by a fire at a Libyan chemical plant were painted on, and US authorities now believe the incident was a hoax, the Washington Post reported in yesterday's editions.

"It clearly was an attempt at deception," an unidentified senior intelligence official told the newspaper. "It's not particularly well done."

The United States accused Libya of producing poison gas at the plant. The Libyans, who said the plant produced medicine, accused the United States and other countries of being responsible for setting it on fire in early March.

By the end of last month, US officials were saying that the damage at the plant was not as extensive as previously believed. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said then that the possibility of a fake fire could not be ruled out.

Nevertheless, intelligence officials cited by the Post said they did not think the plant near Rabta would be returning to production soon.

"They're not going to do anything while the rest of the world is looking," an official told the newspaper. "It's going to remain static as long as the heat's on."

On March 31, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that "important uncertainties remain regarding both the cause and the extent of the damage at Rabta." He said at the time he could not rule out the possibility of a hoax.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

King Hassan II to visit capitals of 'big five': King Hassan II of Morocco will shortly visit the capitals of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

Arafat, in Morocco to attend a meeting on the status of Jerusalem, said King Hassan would seek support for an international Middle East peace conference.

On his tour of Washington, Moscow, London, Paris and Beijing, the monarch would also try to alert public opinion to the dangers of mass emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel, Arafat said. (Renter)

Ozal vows compassion for Kurds: President Turgut Ozal has promised "merciless struggle" against Kurdish separatists but "compassion" for the people of Turkey's poor and largely Kurdish southeast.

"We have only one condition — loyalty to the Turkish republic," Ozal told state-run television last night. "We have no mercy for those outside this faith."

Ozal will chair a special cabinet meeting on Monday to discuss growing Kurdish violence.

Turkish troops killed a separatist Kurdish rebel yesterday in a clash near the southeastern town of Hakkari. (Reuters)

Libya raps EP decision against Iraq: Libya expressed surprise and dismay over the European Parliament decision banning the export to Iraq of any equipment necessary for the manufacture of what the latter described as mass destruction weapons.

A commentary by the Libyan news agency, Jana, questioned the whereabouts of the council when the US and Israel manufactured such arms.

Jana wondered why the European Parliament ignored Israel's nuclear programme and its spy satellite against the entire Arab nation. (Kuna)

Syria denies Shara interviews: A Syrian foreign source denied that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara had been interviewed by an Israeli journalist during his stay in Paris, Radio Damascus reported.

The official source elaborated that Shara had only answered questions of reporters who gathered at the French Foreign Ministry during the meeting between Shara and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. (Kuna)

Arab envoys condemn campaign: Arab Ambassadors' Council in Czechoslovakia strongly denounced the hostile campaign against Iraq by the British media backed by the US and Israel.

The statement, issued in Prague, affirmed that the campaign aims at distracting the public opinion from the Israeli crimes against the Palestinians in the occupied lands and the deal to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands in addition to find a pretext to attack Iraqi industrial installations. (Kuna)

Brotherhood calls for Islamic army

AMMAN, April 8. (AP): Muslim fundamentalists who hold the largest bloc in Parliament urged Arab and Islamic countries on Friday to form an Islamic army and revive an Arab front to fend off Israeli attacks.

In a statement, the Muslim Brotherhood movement also called for military action against Israel and the destruction of American and Soviet interests in the Middle East.

The Friday statement, the third since March 16, comes in response to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

"We call on all Arab and Islamic countries to form a united Arab army," the statement said.

It said: "We call on all Muslims, who believe in martyrdom until the liberation of all the sacred Islamic lands occupied by the Israeli enemy, to immediately join."

The statement did not say where volunteers should go.

The movement also called on Arabs to "revive the Eastern Front, within an Arab and Islamic deterrent force, to fend off any possible Israeli attack on the Arab and Islamic nations."

The Brotherhood group, along with several other less extremist Islamic factions, have called for reviving the Eastern Front, which includes Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the PLO.

Eagle carried off toddler

NICOSIA, April 8. (AP): An eagle snatched a two-year-old child while his family was picnicking near the Iranian city of Isfahan, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

The agency said the child was grabbed during an outing over the new year holiday from March 21-24 and intensive search operations have failed to find it.

The agency said details such as the sex of the child were omitted from the story first reported by the Farsi language daily Kayhan.

The report said a search of the surrounding area failed to turn up even an eagle's nest.

Afghan rebels' phony mass surrender major blow to Najib's propaganda war

ISLAMABAD, April 8. (Agencies): Rebels claimed yesterday that their phony mass surrender on Friday has dealt a major blow to Afghan President Najib's "propaganda war" against the Muslim insurgency.

Some 2,000 guerrillas opened fire Friday as they and some 8,000 unarmed rebels staged a mass surrender to the Afghan government in a ceremony on the Herat plains in northern Afghanistan.

State-run radio and rebels said more than a dozen military officials and civilians were killed, including two gen-

erals. Najibullah Lefrey, a member of the Jamiat-i-Islami faction, said it destroyed Afghan President Najib's claims that tens of thousands of rebel fighters were changing sides and embracing his Soviet-backed government.

But Najib rejected the charge in a nationwide address yesterday over Radio Kabul.

"A few thousand opposition lay down their arms... but two known terrorists trying to disrupt our national reconciliation have stained their hands with the

blood of our people," said Najib.

Najib regularly refers to US-backed rebels as the armed opposition.

Meanwhile, the broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said Herat's provincial governor, Fazle Haq Khalil Yaqar, was hospitalized in Kabul with gunshot wounds.

He was shot while embracing rebel fighters masquerading as new converts to Najib's three-year-old national reconciliation policy.

The official rebel news agency Midia claimed that as many as six generals, 25 Communist Party members and several

top government bureaucrats were killed in the attack, many while embracing rebels pretending to surrender.

The figures conflicted with government figures. Neither casualty toll could be independently verified.

Midia said more than 100 others were injured and said government tanks fired indiscriminately into the crowd "killing numerous civilians and children."

The Afghan government said yesterday it would keep its policy of making peace with rebels despite an attack that turned a mass surrender ceremony into a massacre.

"President Najibullah intends to push ahead with his policy of national reconciliation," a spokesman for the Soviet-backed government, said as two generals who were among 20 people killed in Friday's attack were buried.

The Pakistan-based Jamiat-i-Islami guerrilla group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The ceremony had been intended as a showpiece for Najibullah's policy of national reconciliation under which he has persuaded many Western-backed guerrillas to lay down arms.

هكذا امتنا الضال

Bachelors to be designated residential areas

Draft law submitted to cabinet

A DRAFT law to organise residential areas for bachelors has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

Government sources have been quoted as saying that the Council of Ministers is expected to endorse the draft law during its coming regular session. The law will cover all aspects relating to housing bachelors. All bachelors who are presently residing in

model areas will have to evacuate these premises and relocate to areas designated by the new draft law.

A number of government agencies have studied the ramifications of renting buildings annexes to members of the Asian workforce, and measures have been recommended to reorganise the distribution of the bachelor community by providing them

alternate residential quarters away from model residential areas.

Control

A senior official at the municipality told a local daily that a special control system is being developed to organise all bachelor habitations and the municipality, according to Article 23 of decision No. 85 will cut off the electricity supply to any building

that rents apartments to bachelors in model areas.

The official further stated that once the draft is endorsed, it will authorise police stations and Mukhtars to evacuate bachelors living in buildings in model areas and the owner of the building, including the bachelors will be liable to legal action.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

WE have a three-year contract with an establishment, which ends in July 1990.

1. If our employer gives a release, are we entitled to get our benefits—vacation leave, indemnity and plane ticket to return to our country. Our contract says the plane ticket will be provided.

2. How would you compute the regular overtime payment?

3. On completion of our contract, what is the basis of computation of our salary and benefits.

4. Our employer pays us overtime thus: 30 working days divided by monthly salary. Concerned employee

YES, you are entitled to get benefits; which must be received according to law. If you resign, and have worked for a period of more than five years, you are entitled to receive the benefits; if you have worked for under five years, you don't have any right to get them. If you are terminated, then you'll get the benefits according to the law.

If you are returning to your country on a final cancellation of visa, then you are entitled to an air ticket; you are entitled to get a release; if you want a release to work for another employer, you are not entitled to ask for the return ticket, because the rules say that it should only be given on final cancellation of visa.

2. Divide monthly salary divided by 26 days to get the daily payment, and divide that by eight hours and you'll get the hourly rate; accordingly you can compute overtime.

3. The benefits will be calculated on the last salary.

4. According to the law, an employer can't divide overtime by 30 days; the law says that it is not paid holidays, and it must be counted on 26 working days, and per hour and per day.

CAN you please advise me if there is an age limit for working in Kuwait either by the ministry and/or the Kuwait Labour Law; and is a contract valid if an employee is 65 years old, can such a person claim terminal indemnity.

E.T.

THE civil service code, which covers the public sector, restricts the age to 60 years; any service after that age can be extended only with the approval of the minister.

There is no such age limit fixed by the private labour law; and it is alright to work in the private company. If you work for the same company you have been working for, then at the end of the period, you are entitled to claim all benefits that come under terminal indemnity.

If the extension offer has been made by the same company, you can work with them for 24 months and then ask for the terminal indemnity at the end of the contract.

I WAS a sub-contractor; four months before the job was finished in 1985, the company stopped payment. About KD4,000 is involved.

R.H.

YOU must file a case against the company to make your claim giving documentary evidence that you completed the contract and ask for payment. The relationship between you and the sub-contractor is different from that of the sub-contractor and the main contractor. It is also not advisable to delay the matter any further.

I HAVE been working in a private sector enterprise in December 1986. My residence was stamped in June 1987. I would like to know the exact date of completing three years, as I want to change my job.

S.D.M.

THE Social Affairs Rules, 1987, Article 16, mentions that it is not permitted to change jobs before completing three years with one employer. This period is calculated from the date the visa was issued. You must know the date on which you got your visa and calculate if the three years have passed or not.

From your query, it is not clear whether you entered Kuwait to work for the present employer or you came on someone

else's sponsorship; if you came for the employer you are working for, then the date will be taken into consideration.

I AM an engineer. I worked with a company, which did not pay my salary for more than eight months due to a financial crisis but the management was not declared bankrupt. They allowed me to seek employment elsewhere. I joined another company but could not transfer my residence as I did not complete three years. The previous company dealt with government contracts only. The present company also deals with government contracts but as a sub-contractor.

1. Is it possible to transfer my residence under Article 16 of the Labour Law?

2. In case of a new visa, is it necessary to go to my native country or can I cross the border and return?

3. Several news items have appeared regarding relaxation of rules for transfer of residence. What is the latest situation?

S. Mohammad

1. ARTICLE 16, para three says: "With regard to government projects, labourers shall not be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of contract, even if it exceeds the duration provided for herein, save in the case of project-contractor withdrawal from the principal contractor, for readjustment in the favour of another contractor. Labourers may then be transferred to the latter without applying the duration condition stipulated herein."

You can't seek a transfer of residence; however if the government has cancelled the contract with the previous company and awarded it to another company, then the employees of the previous company can transfer to the new company doing the government contract.

2. This is done according to rules; if a medical checkup and endorsement by the Kuwaiti embassy is required, you must go back to the country of origin and return.

3. The subject has been under discussion but nothing has been done on that so far.

Education Ministry to improve curriculum

By Qasim Nayel

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Education will witness a quantitative and qualitative development during the five year plan 1990/1991-1994/1995.

Speaking on this issue, the director of special education, Mohammad Al Humaid said that the plan includes increasing the number of students in each class as also qualitative development of the department's services and programmes. The department also co-operates with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), including a number of national, regional and international federations.

Humaid also disclosed that the forthcoming years will see an increased development of the care for the handicapped, and psychiatric services to its institutes and schools in addition to technical and administrative workshops for its schools and institutes.

Speaking of the department's future projects, the official said that it will strive to accomplish the reorganisation of its management and also review rules and regulations for the deaf and blind.

The department will set up three new schools and also allocate a building for vocational qualifications in addition to establishing educational workshops.

Thieves arrested

SECURITY forces at Jahra Governorate arrested two Arab males for stealing several cars. The first defendant has also been accused of assaulting a policeman and escaping from custody when he was being brought to the prosecution office.



Traffic officers honoured

Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji honoured Saturday a number of traffic policemen for taking an active part in the unified GCC traffic week. Col. Salem Al Roumi, assistant director general, and several high ranking officers attended the function. Picture shows Hajji, Roumi and other high ranking officers with the traffic policemen.

Foreign service examinations on July 27-29 in Manila

Philippines embassy announcement

THE Philippine embassy wishes to announce to all those interested to join the Philippine diplomatic service that the next Foreign Service Officer (FSO) examinations will be conducted on 27, 28, and 29 July 1990 in three testing centres in the Philippines, namely: Manila, Cebu, and Davao.

In accordance with the decision of the Board of Foreign Service Examiners, the FSO examinations this year will be given in the Philippines only. However, all Philippine foreign service posts, including this embassy, may accept applications from qualified applicants abroad who will be in Manila during the 3-day examinations. Application forms are now available in the embassy.

The deadline for submitting applications to the embassy is 30 April 1990.

Who are qualified to take the FSO exams?

1) Applicant must be between 23-39 years old on the date of the examinations. This maximum age limit does not apply however, to those who have been holding substantive or line positions in the DFA for at least two (2) years prior to the date of the examinations;

2) applicant must present evidence (transcripts of records or diploma or certificate of graduation) of having graduated from a four-year bachelor's degree course in a college or university of recognised standing. He/she may also present a certificate from the Professional Regulations Commission;

3) applicant must be a Filipino citizen of good moral standing and must have demonstrated loyalty to the Government and to the principles of the constitution; and

4) applicant must be in good health and free from physical defects to enable him/her to meet the physical standard deemed necessary for the position. The record of Physical and Medical Examination (C.S. Form No. 2A) must be accomplished for the applicant by a government physician.

In view of the demands of the position, applicants for the examination must be knowledgeable in the economic, political, and social conditions of the Philippines, and must possess facility in oral communication and the personality traits essential in the performance of the duties of the position. They must also be willing and able to accept assignments in any post where their services are required, if they qualify in the examination.

Applicants are advised to check carefully whether they meet the admission requirements, and only those who meet them should apply for the examination. Applications of those who are found not qualified shall be disregarded and the admission fees that they have paid shall be forfeited.

Following are the subject areas to be covered in the exams and their weights:

English — 10 %

Philippine Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Conditions — 10 %

International Economic — 25 %

Development and Finance — 15%

International Politics — 15%

Diplomatic and Consular Practice and Procedures — 20%

Foreign Language (choice of Arabic, Bahasa, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish) — 5%

100%

Candidates must obtain an average of at least 75 per cent in the written tests in order to be certified eligible to take the oral part of the examinations. Only examinations papers of candidates who obtain a grade of 75 points in the English portion of the FSO examinations will be considered for the rest of the written exams.

How to Apply:

1) Submit the following forms duly accomplished:

a) Application form (sworn and subscribed to by competent authorities);

b. C.S. Form No. 2-A (Record of Physical and Medical Examination);

2) Submit the Transcript of College or University Records and Diploma, and/or Certificate from the Professional Regulation Commission, indicating the grade obtained in the bar or board examination;

3) Birth Certificate or naturalisation papers;

4) Two (2) photographs, of size 2 inches by 2 inches, taken not more than six months before date of examination, showing the full front view of the face of the applicant;

5) Four (4) self-addressed stamped envelopes (special delivery); and

6) An admission fee of two hundred pesos only (P200.000) or KD2.990 which may be paid at the Embassy.

Note: Applicants who have previously taken the exams within the last five (5) years need not submit their Transcript of Records (No.2) and Birth Certificate (No.3).

Reminders from the embassy:

The Embassy will be closed tomorrow, April 9, and next Sunday April 15, on account of Philippine holidays.

For those interested to take the NCEE (National Collegiate Entrance Examinations) to qualify for taking up college courses in Philippine schools and universities, the date of examination has been fixed for 15 April 1990, next Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Kuwait University in the Khaldiya campus. Any inquiries about the NCEE should be directed to Consul-General Palala of the Embassy or Taha Guinomia on or before Saturday, April 14, 1990. Remember that the NCEE will be given in Kuwait only once this year. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity.

For Filipinos who have not filed their Income Tax for the year 1989, April 15 remains the last day for filing without penalty. So, please file your Income Tax now, to avoid the penalty of KD3.250. Any inquiries may be directed to Arenas, Guison, or Mustari of the embassy at Tel. Nos. 532-9315/6/7/8/9.

New KU buildings to open

THE administrative director of Kuwait University's Commerce, Economics and Political Science College, Bader Al Theyah stated that the new building which was established in the college will be opened as of the next academic year.

He indicated that in addition to the college deanery the new college building will also include administrative affairs offices, scientific departments, a private cafeteria for teaching staff and a main conference hall.

He said that the new building includes a total of 120 rooms and halls to be used ideally and with modern approach. He stated that the new building will resolve many problems currently existing at the old building like the small sizes of classrooms and office areas. He added that another project was under study to establish a new building for the college in Shuwaikh. He added that the college provides its students with several services particularly after the added expansions. One of the most important students services include post services, bookstore, sport services and training courses for computers and typewriters.



Training course

A training course for the preparation of trainers was recently concluded at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The course was organised for employees from the Ministries of Water and Electricity and Defence and General Fire Department. The ceremony

was attended by the PAAET administrative development office director, Dr. Yacoub Al Retai. The course continued for five weeks. Picture shows the graduates after the ceremony.

Co-op union poses no threat to dealers: Swarej

'Co-operative' trademark goods cheaper

THE chairman of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Saad Abbed Al Swarej has denied any intention on the union's part to pose as a competitor to dealers in providing commodities to consumers.

He told a local daily that the union's provision of commodities bearing the trademark 'Co-operative' constitutes no competition to dealers but is meant as a substitute to commodities whose prices have jumped above normal rates.

He said that the union pays

great attention to provide all-natural commodities from the local sources and factories of national origin, adding that the intention is to support local industries, and that the products bearing the 'Co-operative' trade mark enjoy better marketing opportunity than others.

Control

He said that the union provided regular control over the existing price levels at the co-ops, adding that it also combats intentional and unjustifiable attempts

to increase the prices of commodities in high demand, and spared no effort to ensure stable prices for the longest period possible.

He explained that the existing price differences among co-ops was common among products entering the co-ops for the first time and therefore the union gave the co-ops the right to fix a suitable price to these commodities adding that so long as these products were not marketed before the supplier will be

able to sell his commodity to different co-ops at different prices, and this eventually results in the differences in prices.

He said that when phenomenon like this starts growing, the union will call the supplier and unify the price of this commodity which will be followed by the issuance of a special price fixing circular from the union to all co-ops.

He said that some dealers will import limited quantities of certain items, which upon offering to co-ops at prices lower than

those charged by the local agent, the co-ops will purchase these quantities and this will result in the common price difference from one co-op to another.

He added that the union will call the agent and dealer and learn of the quantities available in stock to find out whether it could be enough to ensure constant supply to co-ops for minimum six months, adding that then the agent will be asked to lower his prices and selling will be maintained at the low price till the quantity is sold out.

Economists criticise companies

A NUMBER of economists have criticised the trend of public joint stock companies to be involved in retail commerce and to open shops. They said that the local market is suffering due to the large number of shops in Kuwait and that joint stock companies have big capital beside having a number of banking facilities that qualify them to carry out grand projects which is the basic aim of these companies. These companies should continue in their grand projects and not open small shops that should be left for individuals, they said.

The economists noticed that United Fisheries Company began opening supermarkets and restaurants which compete with hundreds of restaurants in the country. The company intends to expand in these activities instead of trying to establish a number of marine industries like fishing and packing for exporting its products. They added that Medicine Industries Company also began running more than 25 private pharmacies at co-operative societies although local market does not suffer from shortage in these pharmacies.

Waste storage mode dangerous, say officials

OFFICIAL scientific circles have warned against the existing mode of storing waste matter in Kuwait, pointing out that this method involves the hazard of spreading toxics. Additionally there is the potential danger of polluting the environment and placing humans in great jeopardy.

The official said that the dangerous wastes contained radioactive material which can affect man in general and his genes in particular, adding that the existing pattern of disposing of wastes should be reviewed and upgraded using state-of-the-art technology.

Explosive

According to data gathered by a local daily the term 'dangerous wastes' has been derived from the fact that these wastes contained high percentages of toxics or concentrations of radioactive material that could be highly explosive.

The data shows that the great majority of wastes come from industrial businesses, whereas hospitals are considered the second largest source of wastes, adding that this contained outdated medications, chemical material, infectious disposables and others, while lead compounds, mercury and phynol formed the majority of high-danger industrial wastes.

The daily said that the existing storing patterns in Shuwaikh Industrial Area and in the stores of the General Customs Department besides a number of private warehouses are lacking the right methods to ensure safe disposal of these materials.

The data collected revealed that the existing waste dumping grounds in the industrial area in Shuwaikh receives 20 tons of wastes each year. However no perfectly safe manner has yet been devised to dispose of the discarded wastes in a manner that poses no danger to either man or the environment.

The data also indicated that the industrial wastes included 7,786 tons, while the wastes dumped by hospitals with high infectious potentials constitute 6,384 tons annually. The only available solution is to find far-located incineration or burial grounds to dispose of these materials and control any potential hazards to man and environment.

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Acute shortage of organs for transplant

250 kidney donors wanted

DEPUTY chairman of the Kuwait Organs Transplantation Society, Dr Mohammad Al Mowsawi affirmed yesterday that the country has been suffering an acute shortage of human organs, and attributed this to the fact that there were very few donors in Kuwait. Dr Mowsawi said that 250 kidney failure patients are currently waiting for kidney donors and are forced to

undergo expensive kidney dialysis. In addition, 100 more kidney patients are also waiting to undergo dialysis.

Numbers
Mowsawi added that there are many patients in Kuwait needing hearts, livers and other organs and are waiting with the hope that relatives of dead people may donate their organs to them. He said that

the society succeeded last year in convincing the families of 4 dead persons to donate their kidneys to patients. But he said that annually, we require over 60 kidneys to cope with the increasing number of patients. Kidney patients undergo painful and expensive kidney dialysis 3 times a week, for 4 hours every time.

Mowsawi said that the problem is that

many people have not yet accepted the idea of donating organs after the death. He called upon citizens and expatriates to accept the idea of donating some of their organs after death. He said that relatives of dead persons can render great services to the patients through accepting to donate part of the dead person's organs to save lives of many patients.

Water and electricity

will not be privatised

No increase in charges: Rqobah

By Hussain Salama

KUWAIT'S Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Humoud Al Rqobah was quoted as saying that the government disburse a sum of KD300 million per annum in the form of subsidisation for electricity and water in the country.

In an interview with a local daily, the minister said that the government has no intention to privatise electricity and water services as this service is vital to the people of Kuwait. Further, he said that the ministry is in compliance with the desire of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has no intention to increase charges of electricity and water.

The official said that the Ministry of Electricity and Water assets run into billions of Kuwaiti dinars and added that he did not believe that the private sector would be capable of underwriting these assets.

He said that the government subsidised electricity and the consumer pays only two fils per kilowatt, whereas the actual cost is 20 fils per kilowatt. Likewise, water which costs KD two for one thousand gallons is provided to the consumer at 800 fils only.

The budget of electricity is KD490 million per annum and this figure should be carefully considered when one talks about the electricity and water privatisation process, the official said.

The minister's budget for the next financial year will show a marked reduction as cost cutting has been resorted to. He cited the example of Al Suhbiya Power Station Project whose costs have been reduced by KD50 million by cancelling some unnecessary installations.

Rqobah said that the ministry pays special concern to the Kuwaiti cadre in the ministry and extensive training programmes have been developed to enhance their capability. He said that there are 1,000 engineers employed by the ministry, in addition to about 4,000 technicians.

Speaking of the co-operation between the ministry and the university, the official said that those who had graduated from the electricity department of the Faculty of Engineering at Kuwait University, were being provided job facilities and training opportunities at the ministry's power stations.

An advisory committee is being set up comprising representatives from the university as well as Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to conduct relevant research. The committee is currently involved in studying the relation between the high temperature and humidity percentage and the increase of electrical load and on methods to upgrade power stations. The study intends to devise ways to reduce electrical consumption which now stands at 14 per cent of the total electricity output.

Integration

Speaking of the water supply project from Iraq to Kuwait, the minister said that a tender had been issued last December and officials are currently studying the offers submitted and selection is expected to be issued by the end of this month. He said that a delegation from the ministry chaired by the Undersecretary Abdullah Al Mutayes will leave for Iraq to discuss with Iraqi officials the technical aspects of the project.

The minister said that the elec-

tricity interconnection project between Kuwait and Iraq falls within the economic integration among the Arab countries. Iraq has showed its willingness to provide Kuwait with water free-of-charge.

He added that the electricity project will be of mutual interest to both countries. An identical project is being carried out in Europe. He said that for the time being, for example, we need 20 per cent of electricity to be kept in reserve, but through the joint project, we will need only 5 per cent.

Speaking of the GCC electricity interconnection line project, the official described the issue as vital and is being accorded every priority by the GCC leaders and the relevant study has been awarded to a Canadian consulting firm. The proposed project will constitute a nucleus for an Arab electricity joint project.

On the political factors on the Arab joint electricity projects, the minister said that these projects are aimed at realising joint interest for the states involved and said that the European experiment in this connection could constitute an example for us in relation to the economic unity decided for the year 1992.

The official said that electrical consumption in Kuwait is extremely high and consequently a new station has to built every five to six years. He said that the Al Suhbiya power station will come into operation by 1993 but would be completed in 1994. However, the ministry had achieved success in reducing the electrical consumption and further, the ministry had appointed foreign consultants to undertake a review of power failures.

Mystery fire reported in Ajman

AJMAN, April 8, (Kuna): Can a fire erupt in a house without an electrical malfunction that turns something in the house or a child who scratches a match and throw it on the floor or something similar to that?

In this poor emirate unlike its rich sisters, a man claims his house witnessed eighty fires during one month and he knows no causes for the fires except that they only happen in red-coloured clothes even if those clothes were wet.

According to press reports here today, Mohammed Morad Hassan lived in his house with a large family for six years with no problems. One the 7th of March fires started erupting in his house and they have been continuing until now.

He says that fire extinguishers and water taps become inoperable when a fire starts in his house and only a little amount of water can put off the fire. He always keeps several tubs full of water for use in case there is a fire.

The civil defence department in Ajman acknowledged that Hassan's house was on fire several times during last month and advised him to leave the house for a while until the department could conduct a full inspection but Hassan refused to leave because he had no other place to stay at.



Training course ends

A training course in the security and protection of planes, was concluded Saturday at the premises of the General Administration for Installations Security and Special Forces. Four officers and 16 non-commissioned officers graduated after successfully passing the course. Director of the Administration, Brig. Yousef Al Mishari (above right) gave away prizes and certificates.

Protect health and environment, says Awadi

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, minister of planning and acting minister of public health, stressed the importance of individual efforts in protecting the environment and public health.

In a public celebration of the World Health Day and Kuwait Health Week held Saturday night at the Dasma Theatre, Awadi said that humans have polluted their planet and interfered in its delicate ecological balance, the thing that is affecting their health. "This is why we have to protect our environment. Individual efforts are the key. Institutional efforts alone cannot protect the environment," Awadi stated.

The celebration was held under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and attended by representatives of local organisations that took part in celebrating the World Health Day under the theme "Our planet our health. Think globally, act locally."

A number of schools presented dances and poetry to the audience and Awadi opened an exhibition on health and the environment.

Kuwait driving school

Only 2pc private participation: Jaser

By Saleem Al Wawan

THE director-general of the Kuwait Driving Training Company, Brigadier Sager Al Jaser, has said that the Public Investment Authority at the Finance Ministry will finance the driving schooling project to an extent of 98 per cent of the capital, while the private sector and company shareholders will contribute the balance two per cent.

He told Al Seyassat that work on this project has been going on for a while and that a special site close to the technical testing ground at the General Traffic Department has been allocated

for this purpose, another close to the Ahmadia Governorate building, one in Farawaniya south of Khaitan and one in Jahra.

He said that KD 5 million have so far been allocated to cover the cost of constructing driving schools in different places in the country, adding that work on these schools will begin in the first months of 1991.

Courses

He said that the company will prepare a specialised team of technicians who will undertake the responsibility of developing the needed study courses and programmes in line with the different educational levels of students.

He pointed out that the study period can be from 10 to 30 days, adding that the company will operate under the supervision of the General Traffic Department and that special GTD representatives will be participating in the preparation of the study courses.

Some of the existing driving training companies of the private sector have sought participation in the company's work and that others are welcome to do so, after three years from the date of operation, the officials said.

He added that the charges per student will be KD3 per hour, and that the time needed for each student to qualify to the test will be estimated theoretically or on actual field performance.

Decision on money exchange firms lauded

Crisis averted

By Sayed Othman

LEGAL sources praised the decision taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in banning money exchange companies from receiving deposits or carrying out banking operations without a licence. The sources affirmed that the decision has certainly prevented a financial catastrophe involving small investors. The decision averted a replica of a financial crisis like the one that took place in some Arab countries, particularly Egypt.

Sources added that many small investors in Kuwait fell victim to many money exchange companies after depositing their savings with the companies with the promise to receive instant lucrative profits. The investors received cheques or receipts to guarantee their deposits. Majority of the deposits simply disappeared as the companies were unable to pay back the deposits.

Charges

Now, owners of several money exchange companies face charges of dishonesty, cheating and fraud as the investors have filed many cases in the Kuwaiti courts. The companies will also face the charge of issuing dud cheques in some cases. The amounts involved in these cases, according to the sources, may be to the

tune of several million Kuwaiti Dinars.

The main charge against the money exchange companies is that they have been practicing banking operations without a licence and received huge amounts of cash, in Kuwaiti Dinars and other currencies, from Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates, with the aim to invest it for them and then divide the profits equally.

Fate
One of the main accused fate is a businessman and the owner of a famous money exchange company. He received a large number of "deposits" from citizens and expatriates particularly from Jahra governorate, with the aim to invest it for them without obtaining the necessary licence. He suddenly stopped paying his clients after issuing many dud cheques. Now, he faces over 500 cases of fraud and cheating in the Court of Misdemeanours and as many as 50 cases in the Criminal Court for issuing dud cheques. So far, the total jail sentences he received from the Criminal Court is over 130 years. The number may even increase. Another accused faces over 100 similar charges.

But the questions which remained unanswered so far, is the fate of the deposits. Have they really lost in speculations or have they been smuggled outside the country?

Imprisonment for woman and paramour

A EUROPEAN female married to an Arab was sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour alongside her paramour who was sentenced to three years. Both the defendants are to be deported after completing their sentences.

The court was told that the husband of the lady suspected her of having an illicit relation with the man and decided to entrap her with the help of the maid. The husband informed the wife that he was travelling abroad and instructed the maid to telephone him at his friends place when his wife's lover visited. The two were caught in the act by the husband who had informed the police in advance.

EGYPTIAN security authorities apprehended an Egyptian woman identified as H.B. for duping numerous Egyptian employees working in Kuwait to the extent of \$5 million.

Egyptian authorities had been contacted through Interpol and the lady was apprehended.

The Director of Public Relations and Information at Kuwait's Zakat House Abdurrahman Al Kandari has described begging in Kuwait as unbecomely and said it should be eradicated. In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the house was contributing in fighting this phenomenon through a studied plan to be carried out by representatives from the ministries of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs, Interior and Information.

Sulaibiya power faults killing people

RESIDENTS of Sulaibiya Area have complained of an increase in electrical accidents which have taken several lives. A few days ago, an 18-year-old boy was killed as he was electrocuted at Block No. 10 in the same area. Several similar accidents were also reported to the area.

The residents of Sulaibiya numbering about 70,000 accused the ministry for being negligent

and called for officials to inspect houses and remedy the electrical faults.

Meanwhile a responsible source at the Ministry of Electricity and Water said that extending electrical connections inside houses is the main reason for electrical accidents and the ministry takes all precautions to ensure that there are no electrical defects.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Fond memories of better days

PLACES associated with one's childhood seldom lost with the passage of time as they succumb to the inevitable changes that take place. Those that exist, although drastically altered, bring back fond memories of those care-free days of growing up. Places that had of one time invariably been linked to one's life more often than not have now given way to new structure in the course of modernisation, economic development and above all to Future Time. But for those who are fortunate a piece of land, a building or a garden that still stand are enough to trigger off childhood memories and overwhelm the heart with nostalgia. This is particularly when someone has had a relatively happy childhood as did this correspondent in Bahrain.

Geographically, tiny nations undergo changes faster than large ones in oil spheres. Despite Bahrain's smallness in area the island has retained quite a bit of its old landscape, particularly outside the capital Manama. But with rapid modernisation the villages that once stood the test of time and the ethereal beauty of remote desert spots where families once drove to for quiet picnics, will soon be confined to the pages of history. Progress has drastically affected the peaceful tranquillity of rural life, or whatever is left of it now, when not so long ago simple folks lived on austere but happy existence. The legendary palm tree, the symbol of the island's rich and undisputed natural heritage, is sadly disappearing. Land needed for industrialisation has taken its toll on this beautiful tree. Once it was difficult not to see one every few steps in the country, the palm no longer stands proudly in its millions.

Old places

There are times when I find myself passing by those old places of my childhood in Bahrain. The neighbourhood where I spent my formative years has of course changed beyond recognition. But the building where I grew up still stands on the same spot as vividly as when I was. The three-storied structure has had a number of "face lifts" in over twenty-five years of its existence and looks in good shape. I must say the old girl coped with erosion very well and looks good enough to last at least another decade.

When I look at a second-floor window in the centre of the front portion of the building, I can imagine my mother's anxious but lovely face peering out of times. My mother, who is no more, used to constantly stand by the window to check-up on me when I was outdoors playing with the neighbours' kids. Like a sentinel she would stand there — a diminutive dear of under 5 feet — to ensure I was not up to mischief as usual.

The garden behind our old building has substantially diminished into a fraction of its former splendour as a throng of commercial firms have taken over many parts. The delicious dates in vivid colours of yellow when I would occasionally steal are alas no more to be seen.

The "Baroostis" surrounding the building were of course demolished years ago. I fondly recall the "old man" who lived in one of those huts and ran a sort of store. Often we kids would venture into the old man's place, sort of Aladdin's cave with an assortment of goodies and buy chewing gums and chocolates. I remember him as a friendly old soul who adored us children and often gave us things for free.

Memories of childhood in Bahrain come back again when I visit Jufair. Once exclusively inhabited by families of British navy personnel, the place is no more the posh suburb I once knew. The row of trendy neat little villas have now given way to dilapidated structures. The place always reminds me of the days when I used to go there every Wednesday for scouting meets.

The place around the old teacher's training college looks uncannily the same. The college itself is undergoing renovation while the surrounding area including the round-about retains that old aura when we played as kids.

The Water-garden, not far from our old building, is today one of Bahrain's best known leisure resorts. But back in the mid-sixties it was more like a swamp with a slimy green on one side and a shallow lake at the other and separated by a delicate bridge. If not careful one could easily slip into the green water. But I loved this place. It was the only place where I could be far away from mother's discerning gaze and day-dream or catch some fish with all the time in the world.

Enough seats at schools: Sharrah

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Education Yacoub Al Sharrah denied that there is an admission crisis developing at private schools in the coming year. In an interview with a local daily, the official said that most classes can still accommodate more students. However, the insistence of some parents to have their children registered at specific schools resulted in these schools accommodating more than their capacity. These schools are situated at Al Jabriya, Surra, Salwa, Al Salmiya, Hawalli and Al Nagra areas.

The official also denied that some private schools had dismissed some of its teaching staff before the end of the current academic year with a view to avoid paying summer vacation salaries. He stressed that private schools cannot terminate any teacher prior to the contract date signed between the teacher and the owner of the school.

Envoy to Greece received

KUWAIT, April 8, (Kuna): Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid received here today Kuwait's Ambassador to Greece Ali Faid Al Zaid.

During the meeting, trade and economic relations between

Kuwait and Greece were discussed.

Khaled also received British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston who expressed British points of view to join the Kuwaiti market.

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COURAGE is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all the others — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Nepal joins bandwagon

Agitation for democracy

WASHINGTON, (UPI): It reads like a fairytale-turned nightmare. The fairytale is Nepal, a lush, tiny kingdom in the Himalayas that spawned the inspiration for author James Hilton's fabled Shangri-La, ruled by a young Hindu king who is one of the world's last absolute monarchs.

The nightmare is in the streets outside the king's fenced-in Narayanhity Royal Palace that takes up several solid blocks of downtown Kathmandu — where demonstrators demanding the right to form political parties have been shot, beaten and arrested en masse.

On Friday, Birendra announced in an unusual radio broadcast from his palace that he was dismissing his government and would institute sweeping reforms. By the end of the day some 17 Nepalese had died in violent protests.

It is the toughest challenge yet in the 18-year rule of Birendra, a Western educated 44-year-old who was taught American government by Henry Kissinger at Harvard University and learned to fly a helicopter in the Nepalese army.

When he ascended the throne upon the death of his father King Mahendra in 1972, Nepalese and other observers thought he would bring Western-style reform and prosperity to the nation of 18 million.

But 18 years later his Asian kingdom, sandwiched between China and India, is still ruled as it had been for centuries. The king can void any legislative act, remove members of his 140-member Panchayat, or Parliament, and amend the constitution at will. And despite his apparently sincere efforts to bring prosperity to the kingdom, his progress in improving Nepal has suffered from lack of capital, skills, and inflation fanned by chronic fuel shortages.

The average lifespan has increased, but is still only 51 years. Per capita income lingers at \$160 per year. Recently Nepal slipped below Bangladesh to become the poorest nation in Asia.

As the protest movement escalates, few can guess how Birendra will handle the revolt.

"The thing about Birendra is that he is a complete enigma and seems to work hard at keeping it that way," said one US observer of what was called "the forbidden kingdom" because it was so cut off from the West. "We can speculate, but we really don't know all that much about what he's thinking about or doing behind those palace walls."

Birendra was born in 1945 in turbulent post-war Nepal, into an ancient royal family that had lost its throne to the ruling Rana family a century before.

One of his earliest memories was that of accompanying his father and grandfather into neighboring India where they waited for the revolution that eventually overthrew the Rana regime. The self-exiled royal family members returned in 1951 to a tumultuous welcome that put the Shah kings back into power after nearly 104 years of political eclipse.

His father King Mahendra was determined his eldest son would be the first member of Nepal's royal family to be educated in the West. Birendra attended school at Eton in England and worked as a farmboy in France. Fascinated by the rapid development of Japan during a 1966 world tour, he enrolled for a year at Tokyo University and then went on to Harvard.

When he returned home, he prepared to take over his kingdom by assiduously studying Nepalese history, culture and the ancient Hindu religion. He claims he is a descendant of Vishnu, one of the most powerful Hindu gods.

Birendra married queen Aishwarya in 1969 in a lavish royal ceremony attended by celebrities from around the world. To mark the occasion, his father ordered a \$9 million development programme and the Nepalese joked that Birendra's wedding was his first national achievement.

Absolute

King Mahendra had already established an absolute monarchy in the kingdom and it was this absolute power that Birendra inherited on his father's death in 1972. Britain's Prince Charles and Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos attended his spectacular coronation ceremony three years later.

Mahendra was a people's king. He would make sojourns into his capital without fanfare to talk with commoners and, observers say, he had a good sense of the mood of his country.

His eldest son appears more isolated — a private man who, by outward appearances, lives a quiet life for a monarch.

Most of the royal palaces in Nepal have been sold off and Birendra and his queen, who have two sons and a daughter, have not built any new ones. When they appear in public they are simply dressed. She wears saris. He wears the traditional topie, a conical black Nepalese cap.

Although the royal family is involved in numerous business adventures and Nepal is notorious for graft and corruption, Birendra has remained remarkably untarnished and is widely regarded as an honest man. His only known passion is hunting tigers and other game in the lush Nepalese lowlands.

Birendra rarely travels outside Nepal, but once a year he ventures from his palace for a month-long trip to the hinterlands of the kingdom, visiting schools and health centres and often sleeping in tents.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1553 — Francois Rabelais, French writer, dies.
- 1609 — Spain signs nine-year truce with Holland.
- 1682 — La Salle, French explorer, reaches Gulf of Mexico after travelling down Mississippi river.
- 1691 — French forces capture Mons in Belgium.
- 1783 — Sultan Tipu of Mysore forces British to surrender at Bednore.
- 1865 — Confederate (Southern) Gen. Robert E. Lee capitulates to Union (Northern) Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to end US Civil war.
- 1928 — Islam is no longer recognized as state religion in Turkey.
- 1940 — German forces invade Norway and Denmark in World War II.
- 1942 — American-Filipino forces on Bataan surrender to Japanese.
- 1949 — United Nations International Court of Justice delivers its first decision, holding Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel and awarding Britain damages.
- 1971 — Jordan's King Hussein accepts Syrian proposal to end two weeks of fighting with Palestinian commandos in Jordan.
- 1974 — India, Pakistan and Bangladesh sign agreement to repatriate 195 Pakistani prisoners of war.
- 1975 — House of Commons in London votes in favour of Britain's continued membership in European Common Market.
- 1978 — Loyal troops in Somalia crush attempted coup by army officers.
- 1986 — West Berlin expels two Libyan diplomats and says it has "several indications" Libya is behind bombing of Berlin discotheque.
- 1988 — China's National Peoples Congress names Li Peng as premier.
- 1989 — Sixteen people are reported killed as Soviet troops rush crowd of protesters in a central square of Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

US, Soviets working for peace

Progress slow on arms reduction

WASHINGTON, (AP): The United States and Soviet Union are beginning to lay the groundwork for a future Europe free of cold war tensions, even while making slow progress on cutting their nuclear weapons arsenals.

The tempo is being set by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose concept of a single Europe would supersede the nose-to-nose confrontation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact.

That concept picked up speed at the latest round of US-Soviet talks here.

While President George Bush is in no mood to scuttle Nato, and, in fact, insists on membership for a unified Germany, he has accepted the idea of a 35-nation European future summit meeting later in the year where proposals for Europe's future would be exchanged.

For months, Bush has proclaimed his vision for "Europe whole and free."

Approval

Bush's approval of a 35-nation summit this year depends on having a treaty to reduce troops, tanks and other non-nuclear weapons in shape to sign at the gathering. And that is nearly as much in doubt as completing a framework for a strategic missile reduction accord for Bush and Gorbachev to sign at their Washington summit beginning May 30.

But US Secretary of State James Baker, in three days of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, showed interest in constructing new arrangements, with new missions for Nato and the Warsaw Pact. Back in December, in a speech in Berlin, he called for a "new architecture" after 40 years of cold war.

Before wrapping up three days of talks in Washington last week, Shevardnadze offered some suggestions.

They included setting up an all-European council and a risk-reduction centre. The council members would be the heads of the 35 nations, including the United States and Canada, that signed the 1975 Helsinki agreement to reduce East-West tensions. They would meet annually, and their foreign ministers more frequently, to discuss security problems.

Baker, in December, proposed keeping Nato in business but giving it some new assignments, such as overseeing troop reductions and refereeing conflicts in other regions. He said on Friday he was open to new ideas, provided Nato stays in business.

Process

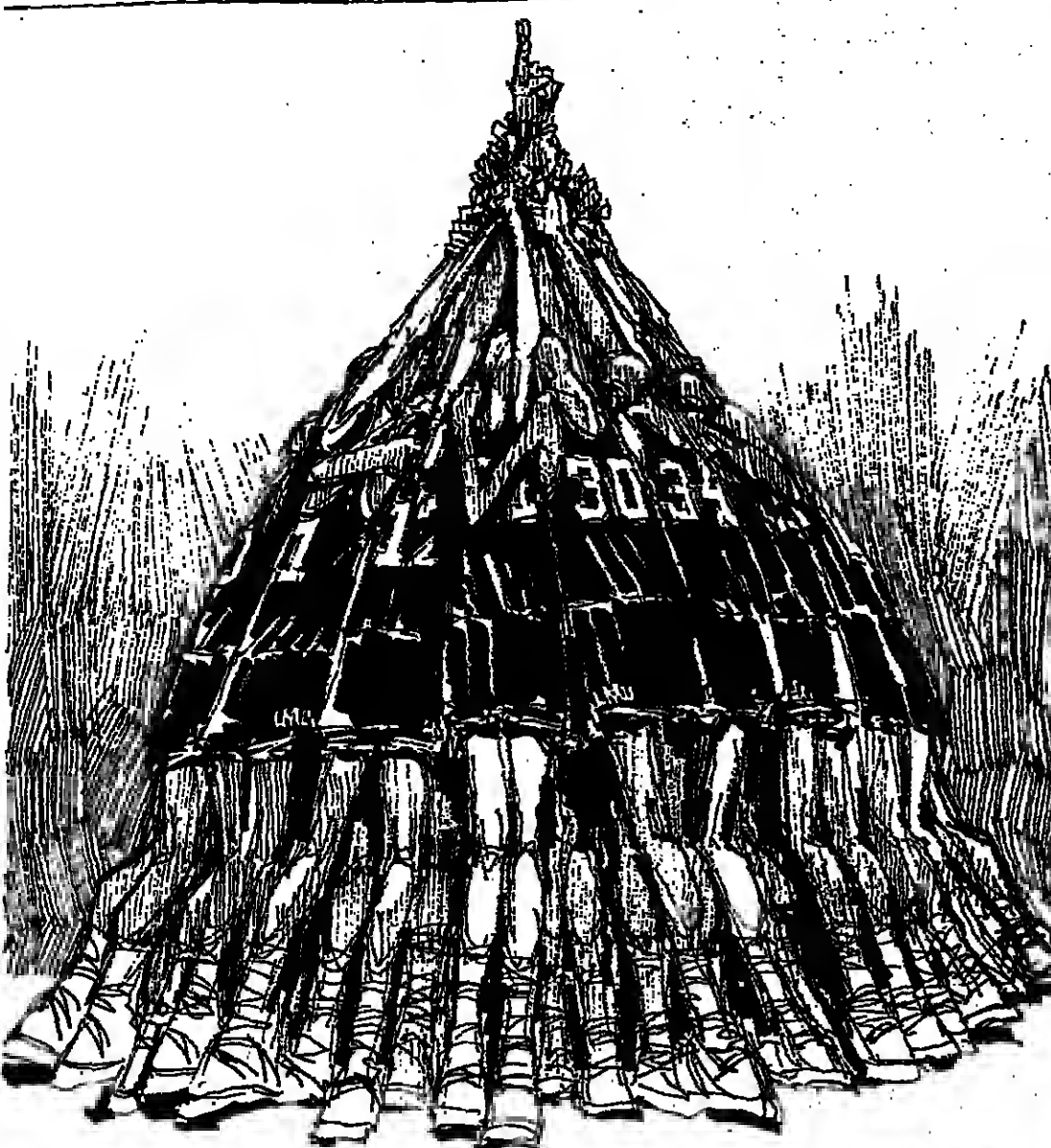
Since the process is new, the ideas are just now taking shape. But they are bound to multiply if East and West keep moving closer together.

Baker and Shevardnadze managed to take a co-operative approach in their talks despite tensions in the Baltics between the Kremlin and independence-minded Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians.

A blow-up could send the drive for a new Europe into reverse. "Of course I would be disturbed if I thought conflict might erupt," Bush said at a news conference on Friday.

But otherwise he will go to the Soviet Union for another round with Shevardnadze in mid-May that produce ideas for a new Europe even as they seek a framework for a strategic weapons reduction treaty.

The two sides failed in the Washington talks to overcome several obstacles to a nuclear accord. Among the problems are the limits to be imposed on



THE GATHERING

cruise missiles and devising a formula to monitor weapons reductions.

"Taking into account it is in seven weeks," Yuri Nazarkin, the Soviet chief strategic arms negotiator, said on Thursday of the summit, "it is impractical to expect it is going to be signed."

Summit

Already, US and Soviet officials are considering the possibility of a second Bush-Gorbachev summit later in the year to sign the treaty if it is ready by then.

On a new look for Europe, however, the picture is brighter.

Shevardnadze withdrew the long-standing Soviet demand that Germany, once it is reunified, be

neutral. That helped the discussion, even though Baker continued to insist that the merged country be a member of Nato.

Shevardnadze rejected the US demand as unacceptable. He recalled how Germany overran its neighbours, including the Soviet Union, in World War II.

But he said: "I have no doubt that in the time remaining it is possible to find mutual acceptable solutions."

The US government considers German membership in Nato the best insurance against aggression by Germany again. Shevardnadze said his government is seeking a solution to this "very acute and very difficult question."

German roads prepare for union

EAST BERLIN, (AP): The road is a roaring river of Mercedes, BMWs and Porsches, their drivers casually negotiating the twisting highway at speeds sometimes eclipsing 160 kilometres per hour (100 mph).

Chugging among them like slow-moving speed bumps, shuddering with each passing blast of air from a finely tuned West German auto, are the ancient little cars of East Germany.

The little engines that couldn't try are trying anyway, making the autobahn — the Western world's fastest and most famous highway system — just a little slower.

"It is too fast for us, but it is not too fast for them because they have good roads and good cars," said East German Walter Keilholz, 51, as he sat in his little Trabant at a rest stop near the West German city of Hanover.

Road

On a secondary road just over the border near the East German city of Magdeburg, a silver Mercedes

rattles down a teeth-chattering cobblestone road, then swerves sharply to avoid a street car that suddenly swings into view.

The unification of the Germans is more than just a merger of economies and governments. It will also involve melding two vastly different transportation systems that already are getting a crash course in unification.

Planners in both countries have drawn up billion-dollar (billion-dollar) estimates of what it will take to upgrade East Germany's antiquated system of roads and rails to accommodate the freight train of Western commerce suddenly heading East.

Some experts say it will take at least 400 billion marks (\$235 billion) to bring the system up to an acceptable level.

"You can easily come to 600 billion to 800 billion marks," said Rainer Hops, a transportation expert with the German Institute for Economic Research, a West Berlin think-tank.

West Germany already expects to spend about

200 million marks (\$117 million) this year just to make basic repairs to the jam-packed new border crossings, and perhaps 1 billion marks (\$600 million) next year on the growing traffic crunch.

Crucial

In East Germany, long stretches of crucial roads are made of cobblestone and twist narrowly through tiny towns. Two-thirds of the bridges were built before 1905.

And at least 9,000 kilometres (5,580 miles) of road are crossed by rails — making them obsolete for the traffic that has resulted now that East Germany has gone from isolated Stalinist nation to burgeoning consumer market and tourist attraction.

"They are essentially destroyed," Hops said.

Improving East German roads is important because basic central European transportation routes are changing from north to south to east and west, reflecting the new accessibility to the East bloc, Hops said.

Letters to the editor

Welfare society

SIR: Following a news report on the formation of the Goan Welfare Society (AT 4-3-90), I would like to make the following observations:

At the top of the list of plans outlined by the society is the "May Queen Ball." This society could do without such glamorous functions, which in any case, only about 450 Goans will be able to attend. Kurait Goans have conveniently shifted their dying annual fiasco to the society.

One of the aims of this society was to try and integrate existing Goan associations into this body. Instead, the chairman of the society has announced the formation of yet another Goan association for the "Saligocars."

It has taken three months for the society to bring to the attention of the public its plans. Three precious months have been lost in inactivity.

None of the proposed plans have anything to do with welfare of the Goans who will need it the most: the domestic sector employees.

For the sake of the Goans who really need a common platform, I hope the society will outlive before it is born due to a wrong sense of direction.

Marian Fernandez, Safat.

Minority provinces

SIR: As I wrote to complain before, we in Cairo, Egypt, receive Arab Times two to three days late.

On the 50th (golden jubilee) Pakistan Day, I want to ask my Muslim brothers and myself what we have gained in the last 43 years.

I love my country because my family and I have fought for it. What I still don't understand is what we fought for.

Dr Iqbal conceived the idea of Islamic Pakistan but the Muslims also struggled for Pakistan. They lost their lands, homes, properties, and even families and lives. Many Indian Muslims were killed in Hindu-Muslim riots and during the migration to their dreamed homeland.

Pakistan was created due to the efforts of Muslims minority provinces, Muslims of Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Aliahbad, Alighar, Ahmabad were martyred.

Welfare society

When Quaid-e-Azam asked for donations, we the Muslims minority provinces donated rupees, gold and silver. Even ladies donated their jewellery. Many Muslims flocked to Pakistan after its birth. They helped to develop the civil service, business, colleges, houses etc. After all these efforts and sacrifices of 70 years (movement) they are still treated as Biharis and Muhajirs in their own land.

Pakistan authorities have allowed 3.5 million Afghans to stay in Pakistan but 300,000 Pakistanis suffering in Bangladesh aren't allowed to return to their own country. I guess the reason is that the Pakistani government doesn't want to hurt Sindhis. Pakistan was created as a Muslim homeland, and Biharis are Pakistanis and Muslims.

If Indian Muslims are still treated as Muhajirs then we must forget the goal for the creation of Pakistan. Whenever I read the killings of Muslims in Sind province I remember the words of the late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on Muslim killing each other and non-Muslims killing Muslims.

Pakistan now has a population of 105 million and can't accommodate 300,000 Pakistanis (Biharis) — shame on us!

Worried

(Name & address supplied)

Approb role

SIR: This is in reference to Dr Haider Mehdi's letter which appeared in AT 3/4, under the headline "Evening of despair". I have no right to comment on the seminar, as I was not present but the views of different people conveyed to me are quite important for the people living in our society, particularly those who are simply called Pakistanis but keep a banner of English scotch whisky which a passer-by can smell. Let me venture to explain it further.

What is "Approb"? Many of my friends have asked for the newly born Pakistani baby: having a Jewish nick-name with the founder members who are Muslims only by name. This association has been formed to spoil the name of Pakistanis and to desolate Islamic ideology and time will prove how long such people will survive.

From their first programme, they adopted a disgraceful manner, backed their founder member to

smash the name of a well-known Pakistani organisation, publish the cards in its name, to collect funds and to distribute free cards and give prizes to bribe the general public and to arrange dances of Pakistani girls to disco music.

It was all done on the incentive of Approb, who wanted to earn name from such shameful deeds. To summarize, I simply explain to my Pakistani brothers that this association has nothing to do with Pakistani culture and Pakistanis themselves. They are making announcements one after the other. Their "essay competition" announcement has been repeatedly published. The Pakistani students have been asked to write an essay on "My role on building a better Pakistan".

First of all the organisers should steal a glance over their characters as to what they have done for Pakistan, which was created merely in the name of Islam. How far they have followed the teaching of Islam.

Secondly, these Approb people could not find a panel of Pakistani judges. One of the judges is an American, the other is Canadian and the 3rd one hardly knows anything about Pakistan. Again, I will emphasise that his shameful character to collect funds in an organisation's name to which he never had an association is really regrettable and he has to submit an account to the organisation, whose name he used.

Even if they had to select the judges they could have taken the learned Pakistanis and scholars who have ever changed their nationalities and are considered pure Pakistanis not only by their names but also by their acts.

Will the "Approb" explain as to what role they have played in building a better Pakistan. Have they any suggestion to improve the present situation prevailing in Pakistan and what role they can play or they still have an impish part to play?

M. Kamal Azhar,
President,
Pakistan Arts Circle.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Art Buchwald

Other woman in limelight

IF THE Donald Trump divorce fracas has done anything, it has once again put the spotlight on what is known in social circles as "the Other Woman." Fortunately, under the Freedom of Information Act, the nation's tabloids must give as much space to The Other Woman as they do to the wife.

Sometimes the press is not as fair toward The Other Woman as it is to the spouse.

My friend Debbie, who has been The Other Woman several times, believes that the system is unjust.

"Most women in this country have been The Other Woman at some time or another, and they should be the last ones to throw stones at another person's girlfriend."

"But," I protested, "we perceive The Other Woman as a home wrecker."

"Other Women don't break up homes. These homes have either been broken up already or are about to be. All The Other Woman does is act as a support system when it happens. The wife likes to blame us for destroying the marriage because it makes her look good. That won't fly because I don't know of one Other Woman who's broken up a home if nobody wants her to."

Better

I said, "I believe that one of the reasons The Other Woman is distrusted is that in the majority of cases she always looks better than the wife. What I am really saying is that The Other Woman pays more attention to her wardrobe and make-up than a lady who cleans the dog dish every morning."

Debbie did not argue with me. "Maybe it's true, but then again The Other Woman has to work twice as hard to hold on to what little security she has. We don't own any casinos in Las Vegas, nor are Other Women given prenuptial contracts. All we have is our looks. Once we lose our paramour's undivided attention, it's Karmy-ka-do."

I told Debbie, "The problem is that many women are threatened by The Other Woman, particularly when she shows up on the front pages of the New York Daily News."

Debbie responded, "I suppose that they are, but let's be honest. In the pursuit of men, most women who now criticize have played the role of The Other Woman and relished stealing men away from the competition. What's the big deal if she happens to be a good friend of Donald Trump?"

"Because in Western culture, The Other Woman has no credentials. She is a huntress without a license so to speak. I personally have nothing against the Other Woman. I believe that when it comes to a happy marriage, a person should live and let live."

Point

Debbie was determined to make her point. "Do you realize how many women eventually become the wives of the men they have been sneaking around with?"

"One hundred and four," I guessed.

"Millions," cried Debbie. "As soon as they are married they are awash with respectability, and everyone has a right to respectability, they were once 'The Other Woman.' The only people we consider scarier women are those who didn't make it to the altar."

"It's true," I agreed. "There are many Other Women I have known who now wear rings on their fingers and are pillars of their communities."

Someday, when all the accountants get finished with the case, Donald Trump's girlfriend, if she becomes Mrs. Trump, will be a woman of respect and respectability. She will have a right to respectability, even after she has been a "The Other Woman" once. Trump away from her!"

I remarked, "It sounds as if it takes a lot of energy to get your man."

Debbie said, "Being The Other Woman means never having to say that you're tired."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Shadow cast over East-West talks

LONDON, (Renter): Nerves over Lithuania's independence drive and Soviet concerns about German unification are casting a shadow over East-West talks to cut back military forces in Europe, Western officials say.

More than just an arms treaty is involved. At issue is a whole scenario in which the accord would be signed at a European summit next autumn that would also sanction plans to unite East and West Germany, divided for more than four decades.

Officials familiar with the 23-nation conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna, aimed at reducing troop levels and non-nuclear military hardware from the Atlantic to the Urals, say it is too soon to predict that the deadline cannot be met.

Concerns

Western concerns surfaced at a meeting of European Economic Community foreign ministers in Luxembourg this week where British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said there was "a stiffening of the Soviet attitude."

Officials also quoted West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher as voicing concern that the Kremlin would try to shift CFE and other extraneous issues into the so-called "two-plus-four" talks on German unification.

The two-plus-four are West and East Germany and the Allied victors of World War II — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, who still retain rights in Germany. They are debating the foreign aspects of uniting the country.

Western diplomats say major unresolved issues at the CFE talks include the number of aircraft, Nato and the Warsaw Pact could deploy and how many Soviet tanks would be allowed in Europe.

The Soviet Union also floated a proposal in February for each alliance to limit its troops in Central Europe to 750,000. The move, apparently aimed at limiting the forces of a future Germany, was rejected by Nato and even by some Warsaw Pact countries.

Moscow has had increasingly difficulty keeping its East European allies behind it, now that they have scrapped communism and opted for Western-style democracy.

Officials in Vienna say work has continued to progress since the last CFE round began on Mar 15, but one said: "There are signs of fairly obvious Soviet concern about the implications of the German reunification process for the treaty regime."

German unity would reduce Warsaw Pact membership from seven to six and make it hard for front-line Soviet troops in East Germany, now estimated at about 363,000, to stay for more than a transitional period.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

G-7 express concern at yen's steep slide

No major action to pep up Japan currency

PARIS, April 8. (Agencies): The world's seven leading industrial powers expressed concern yesterday about the steep slide of the Japanese yen and its impact on the global economy.

US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and other finance chiefs wrapped up daylong talks at the French Finance Ministry by pledging to keep developments in the exchange markets under review.

However, no major action was announced to support the yen. The ministers "reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-ordination, including co-operation in exchange markets," the ministers

"They reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-ordination, including co-operation in exchange markets."

That last reference will be taken as a signal by currency traders that they can expect central banks to support the yen when markets reopen on Monday.

Threats
The officials of the Group of Seven nations — Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan and the United States — met against the backdrop of turmoil in the Japanese financial markets.

In recent weeks, the dollar soared to a three-year high against the yen, although it firmed in the last few days of uncertainty about the outcome of the finance ministers' meeting.

A stronger dollar threatens to worsen the United States' already large trade deficit with Japan. It makes Japanese imports less expensive for American consumers and US products more expensive for foreign buyers.

Japanese officials had sought help from their economic partners in strengthening the yen against the dollar.

Confidence
After the meeting, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan, said the Group of Seven countries would like to see a stronger yen.

There is no country which said the yen's "recent" level accurately reflected Japan's economic fundamentals," he said. Hashimoto and Yasushi Mieno, Japan's central bank president, expressed confidence they had pledges from the other nations to keep the currency from slipping further. "We didn't do this to let the yen fall," Hashimoto said of the ministers' statement.

"I don't want to indicate to you that means there were promises made," Brady said.

He said the yen was trading at about 154 to the dollar three years ago and ended last week at about 157 to the dollar. "So that's more stable than one could have thought," he said.

To help bolster the yen, governments can intervene in the financial markets by selling dollars to buy the Japanese yen. The nation's central banks earlier in the year intervened heavily to try to brake the rise in the dollar.

Asked if more intervention is planned to bolster the yen, Finance Minister Theo Waigel of West Germany replied, "You know what happened in the past: I can't say anymore."

He said the group's official communiqué "recognises that co-ordination and co-operation will continue, and nothing more can be added."

The statement said the ministers talked about "developments in global financial markets, especially the decline of the yen against other currencies, and its undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process, and agreed to keep these developments under review."

The nations also said, "overall growth remains good, with strong investment providing a major stimulus to their economies (and) inflation remains contained."

Kuwait market remains quiet

KUWAIT, April 8. (Reuters): The Kuwaiti interbank deposit market remained quiet over the European weekend, with dealers reporting little activity.

Short rates eased slightly, and overnight was being quoted at 8-1/4 to 8-3/8 per cent. Spot/next traded earlier at 8-1/2, and was later offered at 8-1/2 but was not bid. Fixed rates remained unchanged.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.2979/89 to the dollar.

The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market remained inactive today with some banks reporting no business at all as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan continued.

The spot riyal was quoted at 3.7501/4 to the dollar.



Brady gestures during a press conference following the G-7 meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Text of Communiqué

PARIS, April 8. (Reuters): Following is the full official English text of a communiqué issued after a one-day meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Paris yesterday.

"The finance ministers and central bank governors of Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States met on April 8, 1990, in Paris for an exchange of views on current global economic issues. The managing director of the IMF participated in the multilateral discussions.

The ministers and governors reviewed their economic policies and prospects. They noted that since their last meeting, economic growth had been slowing in several countries to more sustainable levels.

However, overall growth prospects remain good, with strong investment providing a major stimulus to their economies, inflation remained contained and external imbalances have been reduced although unevenly.

The ministers and governors expressed the need for continued close co-ordination of their macro-economic and structural policies to obtain sustained growth, low inflation and greater stability of exchange rates.

In this respect, they agree that current inflation rates require continued vigilance. They agreed that countries with fiscal and current account deficits should reduce budget deficits and increase private savings.

They also agreed that countries with external

surpluses should, at the same time, continue to contribute to external adjustment by promoting non-inflationary growth of domestic demand through appropriate macro-economic and structural policies.

They also agreed that savings should be promoted in all countries through the use of appropriate structural policies.

The ministers and governors discussed developments in global financial markets, especially the decline of the yen against other currencies, and its undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process, and agreed to keep these developments under review.

They reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-ordination, including co-operation in exchange markets.

The ministers and governors welcomed the reforms in Eastern Europe towards market oriented economies which, they believed, are the most profound in decades.

They expressed their willingness to contribute to the success of the ongoing process through appropriate bilateral and multilateral assistance, through helping countries undergoing reforms to remove obstacles to private capital flows and exchange of information and expertise.

They reviewed and assessed the possible effects of these reforms. They noted that German economic and monetary union could contribute to improved global growth and to a reduction of external imbalances in Europe.

Car of the Year Nissan Patrol wins

ON Nov 29, 1989, the Nissan Patrol was awarded the 4x4 trophy for 1990 in France based on a vote by readers of 4x4 magazine. The latter preliminary vote resulted in the final selection to be judged. The cars in the race were, by order of most reader votes: the Nissan Patrol, (long chassis and Sonauto), the Range Rover C.V.U. and the Mitsubishi Pajero Intercooler. Without doubts, the readers took into account the synthesis which Nissan has achieved namely to create an all terrain vehicle capable of running on tracks and roads at high speeds and with perfect comfort plus, combining the Japanese tradition in finishing and equipment, the handling quality of English four-wheel drives and the 'quality of contact with the machine' offered by German products.

The short list selected, the 15 members of the jury, led by Patrick Tambay considered their choice all the vehicles were extensively test driven on roads and highways, as well as on the Forest Hill Estate where a long bridge, deep mud holes, slippery banks and treacherous bridges make for an excellent testing field. Even in the toughest areas, the Nissan Patrol offered a faultless performance. It therefore came as no surprise that this revolutionary new vehicle was voted the overwhelming winner, as well as gaining additional recognition for innovative excellence.

Swiss to hold clock, watch, jewel fair

MORE than 2,000 exhibitors from major watchmaking and jewellery centres throughout Europe will be present at the European Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair in Basel during the 8 days from 19th to 26th April 1990.

During these 8 days, the very latest developments on the European productions scene will be on show in Basel, thus giving a unique opportunity to see everything in one place and to select those products of interest to your own particular market.

Basel is, incidentally, the only place in the world where you can deal directly with manufacturers own specialists and their competent representatives.

Washington's Grand Hotel's popularity makes for some strange bedfellows

WASHINGTON, April 8. (AP): No sooner had Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir walked out of the hotel, flanked by bodyguards, than a certain Arab leader was being ushered into the very same suite Shamir had just vacated. It was just another turn of the revolving door at the Grand Hotel, which has become an oasis of opposites in Washington's diplomatic and political whirl.

Democrats hold fundraisers there. So do rival Republicans. Competing companies find common ground at the Grand, putting up top executives there. More than one head of state makes it a home away from home.

However, glamour doesn't come cheap. Suites run upwards of \$2,500 a night.

You won't see Greta Garbo strolling languidly through the lobby, a cigarette smoking from her pouting lips. But

on a recent morning, singer Janet Jackson, sister of Michael, was passing through, trailed by a luggage-laden entourage.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Ford, Panama's vice president, was holding court in the lobby. Raphael Calderon, the president-elect of Costa Rica, was also at the Grand on a pre-inaugural visit to Washington, and Morocco's top military generals were also in town.

Samir Darwich, the Lebanese-born, French-educated manager, says clients are drawn to the 260-room hotel by its European elegance, multilingual staff and unobtrusive service.

But for some of his guests, security is the paramount consideration. "We have proven we have the toughest, most sophis-

State-controlled or free economy choice Greeks go to polls

ATHENS, April 8. (AP): Greek voters cast their ballots in a national election for the third time within a year today amid projections that no one party could win an outright majority needed to govern.

More than 8 million voters had a choice of 27 parties, two coalitions and 16 independent groupings ranging from extreme right to left in the political spectrum.

But only three parties were considered likely to attract a significant vote: the conservative New Democracy, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) of former premier Andreas Papandreu and the communist-led coalition of the Left and Progress.

Voters had to decide whether they wanted the state to play a more significant role in their lives or a free market economy.

The conservatives have pledged privatisation of state-run problematic companies, curtailment of public sector spending to offset a \$15 billion deficit and concerted efforts to draw foreign investment. Pasok and the coalition advocate generous social welfare programmes, improve public-sector production, tax reform and measures to protect the buying power of wages.

The weather bureau reported temperatures in the low 20s (low 70s F) and partly cloudy skies throughout the country.

In the capital, long queues formed outside many polling stations in heavily populated districts when they opened at 7:01 am (04:01 GMT). All polls were scheduled to close at sunset or 7:45 pm (16:45 GMT). All citizens between 18 and 70 were legally required to vote or face fines as high as 50,000 drachmas or \$310.

Police said that no disturbances were reported from any parts of the country as the election was being held in a calm atmosphere.

However, the pre-electoral period was marked by violence. Self-proclaimed anarchists and urban terrorist groups claimed responsibility for firebombing candidates' offices and blowing up cars. Political opponents clashed in Salonika in the north and on Crete, Greece's biggest island in the Aegean where one person was shot to death.

Election officials said indicative results would be in hand two hours after the polls closed with definitive results early Tuesday (about 2300 GMT).

Police reported that about one-million Athenians left the capital for their hometowns in the provinces and on Aegean islands to vote. Many Greeks who have migrated to the big cities from the provinces through the years have never registered in their new voting districts to avoid bureaucracy and to maintain ties with their hometowns.

Constantine Mitsotakis, the



An armed Greek soldier guards a polling station in central Athens yesterday as a voter is heading to cast his ballot during Greece's national elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

71-year-old Conservative Party leader voted in Salonika in a last minute effort to boost New Democracy's chances.

"I am confident... the people will vote for the future and not for the past," Mitsotakis told enthusiastic supporters outside the polling station chanting "you are the premier."

Papandreu, also 71, voted in the Ambelokipi district of the capital. Applauded by waiting voters after casting his ballot, he expressed confidence that Pasok would win to give the nation a "progressive" government for the next four years.

The voting came after inconclusive elections in June and November in which New Democracy defeated Pasok but fell short of winning an absolute majority in the 300-member unicameral Parliament.

Published opinion polls indicate that New Democracy would be the frontrunner but could once again fail to achieve the necessary majority to govern alone.

Such a result could lead to difficult negotiations between the three major parties over a ruling coalition and possibly another round of general elections. Mitsotakis who led the conservatives in their unsuccessful bid to govern in the previous two elections, is expected to face attempts to unseat him if the party fails to make a respectable showing. He has stated that New Democracy will not co-operate with any party in the event of a hung Parliament.

Papandreu, has said that he will attempt to form a "progressive" alliance with the coalition to govern for the next four years. If the coalition wins enough seats it could once again find itself in a power broker's role as it did in the previous inconclusive votes.

In last June's election New Democracy, in an unprecedented move, teamed with ideological opponents, the Coalition, to govern from July to October.

Papandreu was indicted by Parliament on charges of ordering telephone tapping of his political opponents and involvement in the \$210-million embezzlement of the Bank of Crete. He has vehemently denied the charges. No date has been set for his trial.

Leading financial centre Frankfurt seeks larger role

FRANKFURT, April 8. (Reuters): Frankfurt is looking for a larger global role and West German bankers hope it will overtake London as Europe's leading financial centre.

"The whole area around Frankfurt has a stronger growth potential than London," Citibank AG management board chairman Gunter Rexrodt told Reuters. "It does not mean that London is going to become insignificant, but the potential is here and that is where the growth is going to come."

London's reaction to Frankfurt's challenge has been to call for renewed co-operation between all major European exchanges.

Speaking in Frankfurt last week, London Stock Exchange chairman Andrew Hogg Smith said the London and Frankfurt markets should collaborate more closely.

A spokeswoman for the London Exchange said this co-operation would not take place at the expense of other sources.

"There are a number of different options and we are not planning to go it alone with Germany to the exclusion of other exchanges," she added.

London towers above Frankfurt in terms of stock market capitalisation. Last December London's capitalisation stood at £2.28 trillion (\$3.74 trillion) while that of Frankfurt was a mere \$64 billion marks (\$331 billion).

But Frankfurt's supporters say the city on the river Main has other facilities to offer.

Frankfurt is home to West Germany's powerful and independent central bank, the Bundesbank. The glass towers of West Germany's leading commercial banks dominate the city skyline.

"Frankfurt does not want to become the capital of a new (united) Germany," the influential newspaper Die Zeit wrote in an editorial recently. "It would prefer to become the capital of money and investment — for the whole of Europe."

Recent moves to enhance Frankfurt's international role have included the creation of the new Deutsche Terminboerse (DTB) futures and options exchange.

Launched in January this year, DTB wants to claw back German business lost to London's international financial futures exchange, although at present the fledgling exchange only trades options in 14 West German blue chip shares.

The city is also setting up a new electronic bank clearing system to replace the antiquated arrangement where couriers travel three times a day from one bank to another, handing over thousands of hand-written clearing slips.

Citibank's Rexrodt said Bonn's plans to abolish a controversial securities turnover tax from the start of next year would further help Frankfurt compete with London.

The move would encourage trade in instruments such as German bonds to move to Frankfurt.

In the longer term, West German bankers hope to entice the European Community's planned European central bank to Frankfurt. The city has already set aside a building plot to house a new European central bank building.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl has said Frankfurt, as the largest financial centre on the European mainland, has good chances of becoming the headquarters of a future European central bank.

Soviets reveal trade deficit

MOSCOW, April 8. (Reuters): The Soviet economy, its productivity collapsing amid ethnic and political unrest, chalked up a trade deficit of \$5.4 billion in 1989 — the first in 14 years.

The grim figures, revealed today by the Communist Party weekly Ekonomika i Zhizn (Economics and Life), follow reports that labour strikes and ethnic unrest have cut deeply into the country's productive muscle.

The continued damage, exacerbating deep social tensions, has increased pressure for a radical transformation to a market-style economy.

And it has added to the woes of the Kremlin, trying to contain separatism in the Baltic republics and growing restiveness along the country's southern flank.

The figures published in Ekonomika i Zhizn show a trade deficit of 3.3 billion roubles (\$5.4 billion), led by a sharp fall-off in energy exports and a jump in grain imports.

Total imports for 1989 amounted to 72.1 billion roubles (\$117 billion), while exports totalled 68.8 billion roubles (\$112 billion).

Oil exports were down 11.7 per cent from 144.2 million tonnes in 1988 to 127.3 million tonnes. Coal exports fell from 39.4 million tonnes to 37.5 million, a loss of 4.8 per cent.

At the same time, grain imports swelled 5.7 per cent, from 35 to 37 million tonnes.

Ekonomika i Zhizn said the overall 1989 trade shortfall was the first in 14 years.

The report blamed the deficit on the collapse in world commodity prices, especially oil.

"In the last four years the overall losses of the USSR from worsening trade conditions in comparison with 1985 totalled 44.8 billion roubles (\$73 billion)," it said.

In order to compensate for lower oil prices, the Soviet Union was selling more raw materials than it did before.

Total productivity for the first quarter of 1990 was down 1.2 per cent compared with the same period last year — with the biggest losses in the volatile southern republics of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Tajikistan.

Production plunged 25 per cent for the quarter in Azerbaijan and 12 per cent in the rival southern Republic of Armenia, hundreds of people have been killed in clashes between the two ethnic groups, and protest strikes and absenteeism in the region is rampant.

Chinese curb on private enterprise

BEIJING, April 8. (Reuters): China will soon issue new regulations restricting private-sector businesses, an official newspaper said today.

The China Daily said the government would prohibit private enterprises from doing business in such sectors as finance, foreign trade, the military, real estate, railways and ocean shipping.

Manufacturing and dealing in dangerous chemical products, explosives, some medicines, and important raw materials would also be banned.

The government would however encourage private businesses in the service sector, "small commodities," and farm products. High technology and export-oriented enterprises would be helped.

All private businesses will have to re-register to keep their licences under the new regulations, they daily said.

More than three million private entrepreneurs have been driven out of business since the Communist government launched an austerity policy in late 1988 to curb runaway inflation and overheated economic growth.

WANTED

A Filipino or Lebanese female secretary. The applicant should be fluent in typing, understand Arabic and has a transferable residence permit. Telephone Nos. for personal interview: 2613253-5635775

Hammil, Tunis Str. - Near Al Ramallah Commercial Centre Basement, Shop No. 20. Arab Al Siliam Foodstuffs Establishment

National Bank weekly report

US dollar soars against yen

THE dollar reached a peak against the Japanese currency of 160.35 yen early in the week which was its highest level since December 1986. However, it soon drifted back to its narrow range due to a shortage of any fresh factors.

Treasury bonds moved higher midweek amid speculation of a Japanese finance house having problems but these gains were partly removed by profit-taking by the week end.

The unemployment rate unexpectedly fell slightly but the new job creation level reached its lowest level for more than three and a half years.

The dollar ended the week almost unchanged at: DM 1.696 and yen 157.63.

With the G-7 meeting taking place in Paris this weekend as stated last week it is considered

doubtful that any significant new initiatives will be produced as the finance ministers will be more concerned about their own domestic difficulties.

The much lower than expected gain in non-farm payrolls this week will diminish the likelihood of any tightening in the Federal Reserve's monetary policy and provides further evidence of a slowdown in the US economy with recent buoyancy proving to be short-lived.

Assuming no meaningful outcome from the G-7 meeting trading ranges for next week are forecast to be as follows: DM 1.68-1.72 and yen 158-163.

United Kingdom

News of violence in London at the weekend caused both the pound and share prices to slide early on. However, sterling later recovered and ended the week on

a firmer note supported by the UK's high interest rates.

Retail sales and consumer borrowing in February were both lower than expected after peaking the previous month but the economy is still not considered to be slowing quickly enough and the data appears to highlight the "traditional interest rate insensitivity of the UK."

Separately official reserves fell slightly more than forecast with the fall being partly attributable to Bank of England intervention to underpin sterling.

The pound ended the week at: £/\$1.638 and £/DM 2.778.

John Major, the Chancellor, said this week that there had been some indications that demand was declining and he anticipated that there would be a reduction in interest rates by the middle of

next year. The improvement in sterling has removed pressure towards any upward movement in interest rate level for the time being.

The political situation in the UK continues to give cause for concern and markets are expected to remain cautious ahead of the inflationary indicators due out later next week.

Trading ranges for the coming week are forecast to be as follows: DM 2.77 to 2.82 and £/\$1.63 to 1.66.

West Germany

The German Deutschemark continues to be affected by the debate concerning the conversion rate to be used in order that monetary union can take place. The East Germans are strongly against the Bundesbank's proposed 2:1 rate rather than the 1:1 parity recommended earlier.

Economic data releases this week included the following:

1. Industrial output fell an adjusted 0.8 per cent in February from January after an upwardly revised 2.1 per cent increase in January from December. In February the year-on-year rise amounted to 4.4 per cent.

2. Employment fell to 7.7 per cent in March from 8.2 per cent in February mainly due to an increase in construction activity due to mild weather conditions.

3. Current account fell in February to DM 8.3 billion from DM 10.2 billion in January and compared with DM 9.3 billion in February 1989.

4. Trade surplus also declined 17 per cent to DM 10.63 billion in February from DM 12.8 billion in January and against the year earlier figure of DM 11.4 billion.

Iran hails \$13b deal with Italy

Breakthrough after Rushdie row

NICOSIA, April 8. (Reuters): An Iranian official has hailed a 13 billion economic accord with Italy as a political breakthrough following the Salman Rushdie affair.

"Italy will become Iran's second trade partner and first in terms of technical co-operation," Iran, yesterday, quoted a source close to an Iranian economic delegation as saying.

The source said the delegation, which signed a letter of understanding on economic ties in Rome on Thursday, was the first high-ranking Iranian team to be invited to Italy since a row over British writer Salman Rushdie.

European Community countries denounced a call by then Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini in February last year for Rushdie to be killed for what many Muslims regard as blasphemy in his novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

Action plan for LDC's agreed

Unctad bid

GENEVA, April 8. (Kuna): Major elements of the draft text which will decide the new action programme for the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) in 1990's, has been agreed upon, John Sankey, ambassador of the United Kingdom and chairman of the last preparatory inter-governmental committee meeting, said in Geneva.

Addressing a press conference, Sankey stated that during the last two weeks, through the various working groups, the committee was able to agree on 'bulk' of the text which will be considered by ministers at the second United Nations conference on LDC's to be held in Paris from 3-14 September, 1990.

Organised under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the meeting was of universal scope to consider ways of assisting the 42 LDC's—considered the weakest nations on the face of the earth.

The new programme of action, he pointed out, contained a framework of principles and the type of policies that needed to be pursued in the LDC's. The document, he added, also had detailed policy papers for each country.

A number of issues, however, have still been left open for the ministers to decide and agree upon in Paris. These include, for instance, the setting of aid targets by individual countries for the benefit of development in LDC's.

While some countries favour an aid target of 0.15 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP), others want a higher target of 0.20 per cent, while some countries like the United States are not at all in favour of target setting.

Similarly, the question of debt strategy, which was discussed by the committee members, has been left open for the ministers to

take a stand on the issue.

Asked whether the new action programme for the LDC's would take cognizance of capital flight from LDC's to banks in developed countries, especially of monies meant for development aid, Sankey said that there was a sensitive issue but that there were two parties to such deals. The document does, however, focus on the mobilising of savings for productive use, he pointed out.

Questioned on what he saw as the major difference between the action plan for the 1990's compared to the one in 1980's (during which the plight of most of the LDC's actually worsened), Sankey noted that the role of the enterprise (private) sector has been recognised, for instance, to be far more wider. "The LDC's were starved for investment in the 80's."

Similarly, the new action programme gives more recognition to the role of women. Population policies, which were considered a taboo before, have also been mentioned and the new programme also recognises the increasing role of services in the economy, the chairman pointed out.

As to whether the concept of total write-off of LDC debt was favoured, the chairman of the committee observed that though the issue was discussed, nothing 'revolutionary' did emerge and that it was exactly a meeting of 'debt experts'.

Replying to a question on whether there should be tighter rules for defining the criteria of an LDC's Sankey said this was up to the United Nations Committee on Development Planning, in New York, as they had the mandate for the purpose. He admitted that a number of countries preferred less developed countries to be defined as LDC's while certain others wanted more countries to be included in the LDC list.

The only lasting break was with Britain, with which Tehran severed ties in March last year. Iran has repeated the death threat since Khomeini died in June and Rushdie is in hiding under British police protection.

The source said the achievements of the (Iranian-Italian talks) were significant from both political and economic aspects. "Iran, quoted the unidentified source as saying."

Japan and West Germany are currently Iran's top trading partners.

The source said the accord, expected to be worth \$13 billion over the next five years, included Italian investment in joint venture manufacturing of goods to be exported by Iran.

Italy would help Iran build a dam able to produce 3,000 megawatts of electricity. It would also import Iranian liquefied gas and supply gas liquefaction technology.

A Fiat spokesman said in Italy last week the company was interested in making cars in Iran but no firm deal had been reached.

Iranian Mines Minister Mohammad Hussein Mahlouji said about 150,000 cars a year could be produced, some for export. He said details had still to be worked out.

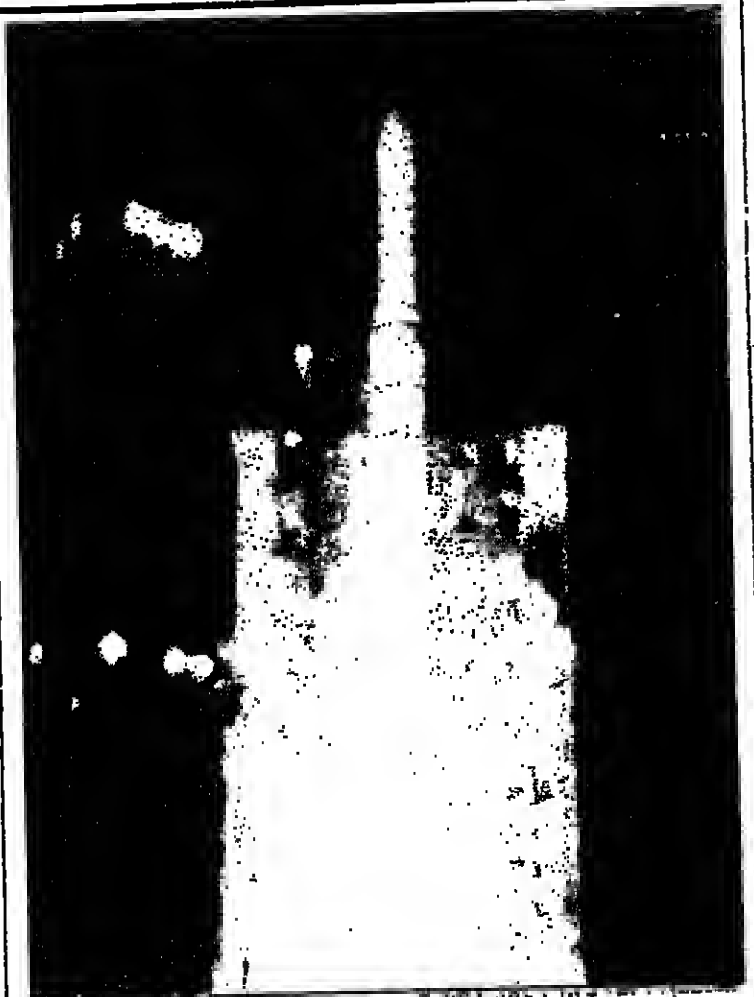
Mahlouji described his visit to Italy as useful and positive for both sides.

Iraq to boost non-oil exports

BAGHDAD, April 8. (Reuters): Iraq is planning a sixfold increase in the value of its non-oil exports to six billion dinars (\$19.2 billion) next year, an official said.

Amer Al Saadi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, said the exports would include sulphur, phosphates, chemical fertilisers and petrochemicals.

He told the government weekly Alef-Ba it was planned to increase phosphate production from five to seven million tonnes, urea fertiliser from one to between three and five million tonnes and petrochemicals from 150,000 to 1.5 million tonnes.



Long March 3 rocket shown taking off. (Reuters wirephoto)

China launches trade satellite

First Asian nation

XICHANG, China, April 8. (AP): A Long March 3 rocket blasted into space yesterday atop a plume of fire, bearing a US-made telecommunications satellite and marking China's debut into the satellite launching business, and the first Asian nation to enter the lucrative market.

Hundreds of invited guests and peasants broke into cheers and applause as they watched the rocket lift off its launch pad outside this city in China's southwestern Sichuan province after an hour and 40 minute delay.

The launch, shown live on Chinese central television for the first time in China's 20-year-old satellite programme, was delayed due to fog and rain. The weather lifted, and the rocket lifted off under a full moon and cloudless skies at 9:30 pm (1300 GMT).

The satellite is owned by Asia Satellite Telecommunications (Asiasat), a Hong Kong consortium of Hutchinson Whampoa, Britain's cable and wireless and Beijing's state-run China International Trust and Investment Corp.

Asiasat arranged for some Hong Kong-based reporters to travel to Xichang for the launch, though foreign reporters based in Beijing were not allowed.

About 400 invited guests from around the world, including the US Ambassador to China, James Lilley, watched from the control room rooftop some 6.8 kilometres (4.2 miles) from the launch pad. Peasants watched from hilltops, bridges and rice

paddies around the launch site.

After liftoff, the guests were taken to the mission control room and watched technicians monitor ejection of each stage of the rocket hooster. When the rocket completed its final manoeuvre and reached orbit 22 minutes after the launch, technicians leapt from their seats clapping, cheering and waving at the visitors.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping and Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin immediately sent messages of congratulations, while Premier Li Peng watched the launch from a control centre in Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The launch also was reported live on Chinese radio.

The official China Daily newspaper said that launching the Asiasat and other foreign satellites would "amaze the world."

The satellite will be used to transmit television, telephone and other communications signals to Asian countries. Burma and two Hong Kong companies have signed contracts to use it and Thailand, Pakistan, South Korea, Nepal and other countries have signed letters of intent.

After the launch, an Asiasat official announced the company would donate use of six of the satellite's 24 transponders for use by Asian broadcasters covering the Asian Games in Beijing this September.

Xichang is one of China's three known launch sites, although sources say a fourth exists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lufthansa, Aeroflot venture: Deutsche Lufthansa AG said Thursday it has signed a \$440 million joint-venture agreement with the Soviet airline Aeroflot to expand the Moscow airport, the first stage of a plan in which the West German carrier hopes to gain a strong presence in the Soviet air transportation sector.

The agreement to develop Sheremetyevo airport was signed in Moscow by Lufthansa chairman Heinz Ruhnau and by Vladimir Potapov, Aeroflot's executive for international flight services. Lufthansa said in a statement.

The joint venture will be financed on a 50-50 basis by the Soviet carrier and by a Lufthansa-led West German consortium.

Most of the financing of the venture will come from Dresdner Bank, a partner in the project. (UPI)

Toyota to expand: Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp. has decided to branch out into the aviation industry through marketing its newly developed engine for propeller-driven small aircraft in the United States. Japanese news reports said Thursday.

The Nagoya-based company, however, denied the reports.

"We have not yet succeeded in developing aircraft engines," said Hajime Sakaguchi, spokesman for the company. "The news report was written with much speculation."

The national daily Asahi Shimbun and Kyodo News Service reported Thursday Toyota developed a reciprocating engine for light propeller planes and will start producing it later this year for marketing in the United States. (UPI)

New NWA complimentary service: North-West Airlines has launched a new complimentary drinks and free in-flight entertainment service to all passengers on its trans-Pacific flights, including Hawaii, Guam and Saipan, the leading US airline said.

Similar service will be extended to its all-trans-Atlantic flights from May 1, the company said.

The action is part of a \$422 million programme announced in January to enhance customer service, the company said.

The cost of this service enhancement will be several million dollars each year but it would be offset by the customer preference that such a move will generate, said A.W. Johnson, the company's senior vice president, international. (UPI)

Filofax hitting hard times: Filofax, the firm whose handy leather ring-binders help people organise their lives, has hit hard times.

The British group saw profits soar in the 1980s when its small files incorporating diaries, address books and many other features tapped a huge market of harassed executives.

It swiftly became a badge of success among young upwardly-mobile professionals, popularly dubbed "Filofax". But after doubling its earnings each year through the mid-1980s, the company has suffered an embarrassing reverse. (Reuters)

Norway Saga appeals: Saga Petroleum, Norway's biggest private oil company, said it had appealed to the Oslo bourse to try to stop state-controlled Norsk Hydro from taking a big stake in the company.

The bourse, which made an unprecedented threat to stop listing Saga from Wednesday unless it had Hydro buy a nine per cent block of its shares, said it would allow Saga to continue trading during the appeal, which could last up to eight weeks.

Hydro, Norway's biggest industrial firm, already holds around four per cent of Saga. The purchase would expand its holding to 13 per cent, worth about 1.5 billion crowns (\$228 million) at current prices. (Reuters)

Ford pays family \$6m settlement: Ford Motor Co. has agreed to pay a family \$6 million in one of the largest product liability settlements of its kind in the United States, the plaintiff's attorney said in San Diego.

The settlement was reached Tuesday in a lawsuit filed in March 1989 by Jim and Patricia Miller, whose 11-year-old son was killed and second son left paralysed in a Nov 13, 1983, automobile collision near their home.

The settlement was apparently one of the largest ever paid by a manufacturer for failing to install rear seat shoulder harnesses even though they knew safety would be greatly improved, said the family's lawyer, Craig McClellan.

"The main thing for the Millers is getting the word out," he said. "That is why they would not agree to confidentiality (about the size of the settlement)." (UPI)

Sanyo develops new battery: Major Japanese electronic firm Sanyo Electric Co. said it has developed a high performance rechargeable storage battery with an energy density about 1.8 times that of the conventional nickel-cadmium cell.

The Tokyo-based company said the cylindrical cell combines a newly designed nickel plate with a metal hydride plate using a long life, high capacity hydrogen absorbing metal alloy.

The new battery can be charged in about one and a half hours and can provide large amounts of electrical current by discharging all of its stored energy in only 20 minutes, the company said. (UPI)

China awards Pratt contract: Pratt & Whitney has announced an agreement with the Chinese government to provide jet aircraft engines with a potential value of \$118 million.

The agreement calls for Pratt and Whitney, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp., to supply the Chinese government with 20 engines with an option for 20 more, to power McDonnell Douglas M-D 80 twinjets it will co-produce.

The purchase of JT8D-200 engines is the result of an agreement that Shanghai Aviation Industrial Corp. and China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corp. have with McDonnell Douglas to co-produce 10 MD-80s, with an option for 10 more. (UPI)

Baxter lay off 6,400: Baxter International Inc., one of the world's largest makers of hospital supplies, has announced in Chicago plans to lay off about 6,400 workers and close or sell 21 plants in an effort to trim costs and narrow its scope.

In addition to the 10 per cent workforce reduction and consolidation of manufacturing facilities, Baxter indicated it will sell several businesses, raise prices on many products and channel more money into research and development.

"These decisions are in the best long-term interests



"THINGS HAVE REALLY GONE TO HELL SINCE WE LEFT WARSAW."

Phillips version 'Cleaner gasoline'

ST LOUIS, Missouri, April 8. (AP): Phillips Petroleum Co. on Thursday became the latest oil company to introduce a reformulated gasoline designed to be less harmful to the environment than existing grades.

Phillips reformulated fuel—blended to reduce certain hydrocarbon emissions—will be tested in St. Louis, one of more than 100 cities that fall below the Environmental Protection Agency's minimum standards for air quality.

The rush by America's oil companies to make gasoline less toxic comes in response to stepped-up government efforts to reduce air emissions from the tailpipes of cars and trucks.

George Gaspar, a stock analyst for Robert W. Baird and Co. financial firm in Milwaukee, said oil companies are trying to protect their market by developing "cleaner" gasoline that will help auto companies meet tougher air emission standards.

"If the auto companies don't get any help they may have to take some major actions that could hurt the petroleum industry," said Gaspar. "We're going to hear a lot about how great reformulated gasoline is."

Phillips, based in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, sells gasoline in the Midwest. It selected St. Louis for the test because of the company's strong selling base in the area.

Tourism affected Dirty UK streets

LONDON, April 8. (Kuna): Dirty London streets and poor value for money in the capital's hotels are turning away foreign tourists, and widening the balance of payment gap, British Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley has been told.

A poor image abroad has helped to turn Britain's £500 million surplus on tourism in 1985 into a deficit of two billion pounds in 1989, and the figures were even worse last year, this came during a meeting Ridley chaired last night for the UK national economic development council.

Tourism was one of the problem areas highlighted in a paper presented by the director general of the national economic development council, Walter Ellis.

Compared with holidays elsewhere it has been found that in the 1980s there was generally a much lower level of satisfaction in terms of value for money with London hotels and the cleanliness of streets in the British capital.

of all of our constituencies," said Baxter chairman Vernon R. Loucks Jr. in a statement. (AP)

Tobacco firms manipulate the laws: Major American tobacco companies are manipulating trade laws and pressuring US trade agencies in developing countries to ensure markets for their products remain open, a senior US health official has said.

"They play our free trade laws and export policies like a straitjacket, violating, pressuring our trade promotion agencies to keep open—even force open in some cases—other nation's markets for their products," said James Mason, assistant secretary for health in the US Department of Health and Human Services. (Reuters)

Japanese takeover Swiss hotel: A Swiss hotel which manages a luxury hotel owned by Switzerland's Central Bank is losing the contract because it is being taken over by a Japanese group.

"It's important for us as a public official body to have relations with companies that are mainly Swiss," a spokesman for the Swiss National Bank said.

The Central Bank bought the Bellevue Palace, which is next to the Swiss Parliament, in 1976 at the request of the government which feared it might fall into foreign ownership. (Reuters)

Textile import bill introduced: A US trade official has said that a bill introduced into Congress to restrict textile and shoe imports could thwart American efforts to liberalise the global trading system.

The bill was introduced with more than 250 House and Senate sponsors to limit the growth of textile and apparel imports to one per cent a year based on 1989 levels.

Five companies join forces to keep Perkin-Elmer Corp in US hands

NEW YORK, April 8. (UPI): High technology business in the United States are proving they are not about to give in easily to Japanese competitors.

Five American companies joined forces recently to acquire one of the few remaining US manufacturers of key tools to produce advanced computer chips.

Only weeks ago, industry analysts had expressed serious concern that a Japanese company might buy the semiconductor equipment division that Perkin-Elmer Corp. based in Norwalk, Conn., put on the auction block because it did not generate profits.

Nikon Corp was mentioned as a likely buyer in a sensitive deal that would have

required regulatory approval and could have been vetoed by President Bush.

The US buyer is Etec Inc., a new company led by a team of managers from Perkin-Elmer's sophisticated electronic beam division, with the backing of five American high technology corporations, including International Business Corp.

"We consider Etec to be in direct support of the national interest to strengthen critical technologies and improve US competitiveness," commented Etec chairman Charles Minihan after the March 19 acquisition.

"This is a prime example of US industry co-operation and teamwork."

Terms were not disclosed but industry

sources said Perkin-Elmer's former managers and IBM have the main stake in Etec, while Du Pont Co., Grumman Corp., Micron Technology Inc. and Zitel Corp. have smaller interests.

Grumman is a leading defence company with a data systems division, Micron is a microcomputer and memory cells manufacturer, and Zitel produces solid state memory.

Etec's partners did not elaborate on the negotiations that led to the formation of the consortium. But they all had been involved with Perkin-Elmer in the past and had a common interest in keeping under US control the vital first link in the complex chain that leads to the production of a computer chip.

Du Pont, besides its involvement in Etec, also bought Perkin-Elmer's applied lithography operations. The diversified chemical corporation will manufacture the masks to filter light beams in optical lithography equipment.

Perkin-Elmer and IBM, the world's largest chip maker, have been closely associated for 20 years and jointly developed sophisticated technology. The sale of the Perkin-Elmer unit to the consortium protects the crucial electron beam technology developed by IBM engineers and gives Etec the licence to the world's most advanced technique to produce micron-size circuits.

IBM repeatedly said it was not going to acquire the Perkin-Elmer division. But IBM

executives were concerned that the high technology developed by the engineers at the world's largest computer manufacturer would end up benefiting a foreign competitor.

IBM also has developed with Perkin-Elmer a revolutionary piece of equipment, "Tool 1," which combines optical technology, robotics and computerised controls to produce powerful chips. IBM is using the machine at its Burlington Vt., plant to produce the most powerful chips currently commercialised, the 4-Megabit memory chip, used in IBM's latest series of high performance computers.

IBM Vice Chairman Jack Kuehler, who late last year hoped for a "scenario that keeps

Perkin-Elmer viable as a source of semiconductor equipment in the United States," praised the concerted action.

"This creative response by the industry draws an impressive variety of domestic companies and will strengthen the technology infrastructure on which we will depend," Kuehler said.

The defence department had warned long before Perkin-Elmer decided to sell its tool-making operations in April 1989 that the US electronics industry was at risk of weakening its position world-wide if toolmakers were foreign-owned. The defence industry is a major user of electronics products.



Classical music evening

Barathi Kalai Mandram, a Tamil association, arranged a classical music evening recently at the Indian embassy premises. Ruman Venkatachalam, All India Radio singer, was accompanied by Nandakumar (Mudrangam) and Murugan (Moringi). Following the superb musical performance, Gita Raghuraman and her team kept the audience under control with a variety of quiz programmes. Children were excited to recognise the famous cartoon characters in the video snippets displayed on the television screen. Not only the competing teams, but also the entire audience were kept busy by Raghuraman when he conducted the last question and answer buzzer round. It was quite interesting to decipher the problem as coded by the sound and light signals. Anuradha Raghuraman, Ramasubramaniam, Balasubramaniam, Subburaman and others helped for the smooth running of the programme.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 14)
- 3.10 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 14)
- 3.35 Qahadhu Bahlool: Arabic serial (part 14)
- 4.15 Rasael Al Ekha: Local programme
- 4.30 Raafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 14)
- 5.35 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme.

- presented by Shaikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.15 Badi Al Eftar: Religious programme
- 6.30 Mazenget Journey: Cartoon serial
- 7.00 Madeenat Al Ayyah: Local Children serial (part 14)
- 7.45 Night Chemists: Airline and official advertisements prepared by the Ministry of Interior Public Relations Office
- 9.00 Juahyna Cultural programme (part 14)
- 9.45 Sawafel Min Al Madhi: Local programme (part 14)
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 14)

- 12.00 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 14)
- 1.15 Cultural late night show. Prepared and presented by Amal Abdullah
- 2.30 News Summary
- 2.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.50 Holy Quran and Closedown.

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 The Real Ghostbusters: A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Charles in Charge: "Isn't that..." Dana well-known actress

- hides her true identity in an attempt to be admitted to University... Charles and Pray try to help her.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
- 9.45 Around the World: A variety of topics, events and incidents from all over the world.
- 10.15 The Equalizer: "Heart of Justice" Two criminals who raped a pregnant woman are released by the court while their victim still unconscious in the hospital. Her husband attempts to kill one of

- the criminals. The latter was killed by another man, but her husband is accused of man slaughter!
- 11.00 Family Matters: "Short Story" Rachel writes a story about an American family and wins a prize... a discussion runs about that story in a comic way...
- 11.30 Classical coloured movie: The Corsican Brothers. Starring: Douglas Fairbanks, Ruth Warrick, J. Carral Naisb. Siamese Twins are separated but remain spiritually tied through various adventures.
- 1.15 News in Brief
- 1.30 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Cold Steel
Al Sahiyah
Good Morning Vietnam
Al Hams
Arabic film

Drive-In
Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdous
Kauo Jesta Kaun Hara

Fahabool Open
Nighan
Fahabool
Like Father, Like Son

Al Jabra
Super Master
Zodiac America
Granada
Moon Trap

Sulabikhat
Welcome 18
Jeeb
Gerafar

Ahmad Drive-In
Rolling Vengeance



101 winners

The draw for the participants in Sharp Gain 'N' Gain promotion was held at Maseelah Trading Co.'s Sale Square showroom recently in front of a large enthusiastic audience supervised by ministry officials.

From the thousands of coupons luck smiled on 101 winners who collected their gifts ranging from a Mitsubishi Colt car to various Sharp electronic items and a KLM air-ticket. The Colt was won by Osama

Khalil Makhoul, coupon No. 16795.

The picture shows: from left, M.S. Gadkary (Manager, Sharp), Mansoor Abul Nabi Al Khayat (winner 7), Rep. of Musaed Al Saleh Co. (winner 6), Ivan Pacheco (director, Al Mulla Group), Abdul Rassool Ibi Sadiq (winner 2), Mohd. Iqbal (winner 10), Sabri Mohd. Mahmood (winner 8), Talat Jallad (P.R. Mngi. - Al Mulla), Ramez (P.R.), Fareed Amin Al Haj (sales manager - Sharp).

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery, daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.
From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English), 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Reireat (Malayalam) - in big hall.

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm. Adoration (English) - in the big hall.
Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) - 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).
Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

PAC's Silver Jubilee
The organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.
Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCAN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990. All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and beautiful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Summer Affair '90
THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen. Join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Saligaocars
CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2466936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Curdeiro off. 2415401. Res. 2412337.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Passion Week
THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

8th April - Palm Sunday - Worship from 6 pm to 7.30 pm.
12th April - Maundy Thursday - Common worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April - Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.
15th April - Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.
During which choir will present "Easter Cantata". All are welcome.

British Council
COAST to Coast. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and fondly remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature. Lennox Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tania Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson.

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him the Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents

The Dancer is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm. Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm. Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm. Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee). Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm - 6 pm Saturday - Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

HOTELS

Ramadan at Mesallah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes. Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialities.

Ghahga & Sohaur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohoor buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn
Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6,000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price.

SOHOOR: Eat as much as you can for KD2,000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

The Meridian
DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE: Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, maybous, safiha, baal-haki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like bassboosch, maamool bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as tripe soup, tamer hindy, laban

curran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabghah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967, 929 to place your order.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo -- Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazzah, etc. Enjoy Sohoor from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejs plays in the lobby diwanija after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

SPORTS

Mesallah Beach Hotel Club

WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. **SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION:** 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday.

Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies' and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and for tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month.

on Sundays and Tuesdays, or Mondays and Wednesdays. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (recreation)

Hyderabad Sports Day

The committee for sports for celebration of 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (or next day of Idd) at Juleeb Al Shuwik ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuwik cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows: 9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans. 12 to 2 pm: Break for Prayer and lunch. 2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agens. 5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration of the festivities by Chief guest and Ambassador of India Sri Aron Kumar Budhiraja and prize distribution by Mrs Budhiraja.

The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years

(relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 48425781). All Hyderabadis are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

Yoga lessons
FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonie Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

PRAYERS	
Imsak	3.57 am
Fajr	4.07
Zuhr	11.50
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.12
Isha	7.30

BBC world service

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

FROM an early age writer C.S. Lewis was fascinated by tales of ancient myth and legend. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe was first published in 1959 and soon became a great favourite with children. It is the first of the Tales of Narnia and tells of the four Pevensie children who discover that by clambering through a wardrobe they can enter the enchanted land of Narnia ruled by the White Queen Jadis.

Thursday, April 12 at 14.30 and Friday, April 13 at 05.30 and 20.15

Let my people go

THE universal theme of suffering is explored in this special service of readings and music from Trinity College, Cambridge. Compiled by Trinity's Dean, Professor John Rower, the work reflects the historical struggle of the black community in the USA. It uses written archive material and the music is based on 'A Child of Our Time' by the English composer Michael Tippett.

Friday, April 13 at 17.01 and 22.01. Recommended frequencies: 17.64MHz/17.01m 15.07MHz/19.91m 11.76 MHz/25.51m.

January G.C.E. results remarkable

150 "O" LEVEL and 11 "A" Level New English School students entered the G.C.E. London University Examinations in January 1990, six months before the scheduled end of their courses. The pass rate for "O" level was 90 per cent and "A" level 100 per cent.

At "A" level, Hany Sombaty, 3 Grade A's; Asim Ali, 2 Grade A's, particularly distinguished themselves.

Amongst the "O" level students who obtained excellent results were Omaya Yousef, 7 A's; Walid Allouh, 5 A's, 1 B; Mohammad Al Nur 5 A's, 1 C; Amro Abu Asi 5 A's; Magd Abu Zant 5 A's; Besam Ajeena 5 A's.



Franco Lillo and Regina at the Sheraton

The Kuwait Sheraton Hotel recently introduced the new duo Franco Lillo and Regina who perform nightly at the famous Italian Riccardo restaurant.

Franco and Regina were born in Bari, Italy and gave their first performance in 1971 at the International Festival of Venice. This was followed by international travel and performances at various festivals and competitions.

They were awarded for their outstanding performance at the world popular song festival at Tokyo and were invited to participate at the "All Latin countries" Mundo de Noche T.V. concert. In 1988 during the Olympic Games in Seoul, Franco and Regina performed more than once for the M.B.C. television.

Enjoy the best of "Little Italy" at the Kuwait Sheraton Riccardo restaurant while being serenaded by the best of Franco and Regina.



In southern Italy, kidnapping has become big business. Victims are seized throughout the country and hidden sometimes for years in mountain caves.

Kidnapping

A lucrative sideline for the Italian mafia

By Clare Pedrick

PAVIA, Italy (WNL): "My mother says I should forgive them, but I can't. I hate them all — they're not even human. They treated me like a dog and I hope with all my heart that one day they suffer for what they did to me."

Cesare Casella, 20, is on the verge of tears as he relives his two-year ordeal of being chained up in a cave by a gang of professional kidnappers in southern Italy. "I'm sorry. I feel very emotional and rather shy," he adds. "For the past two years I've seen no one but hooded figures. I have to get used to living again, to people and to my family."

Doctors who examined Cesare after his dramatic release a few weeks ago say he seems to be in good physical shape, apart from a welt on his ankle caused by the chain that kept him manacled in his underground prison in the desolate Aspromonte mountains of Calabria.

"Of course, the main damage will be psychological," said Cesare's father, Luigi. "But we don't plan to call in professional help if we can avoid it. We're hoping the best cure will prove to be peace and calm and a normal family life."

For the moment, at least, there is little chance of the Casella household returning to a normal life. In their house in Pavia, 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Milan, the telephone rings constantly; the house is overflowing with baskets of flowers sent by well-wishers and the postman arrives several times a day with bundles of letters and telegrams from all over Italy.

Outside, staff from Luigi Casella's Citroen car dealership have hurriedly torn down the huge banner urging "Free Casella" that they put up two years ago. Now a new message blazes, "Welcome Home Cesare!"

It was just after 8 p.m. on Jan. 18, 1988 when Luigi Casella found his son's car abandoned outside the family home. The doors were open, the headlights still on, and it was soon clear that Cesare had been abducted. It was to be 744 agonizing days before the family would be united. Cesare's release, unharmed, from the clutches of a gang that has in the past sent severed ears and fingers as macabre warnings to relatives was as sudden and as unexpected as his disappearance.

Since his return, Cesare's time has been spent catching up with old friends, going out to disco watching his favourite soccer team, "Milan," as guest of honour — and eating. During his captivity he lived on cheese and plates of beans and pasta. His first request once back home was for a plate of his grandmother's "spaghetti alla carbonara."

Restless

Cesare himself confesses to feeling restless. Used to being awakened at dawn every morning, he finds it hard to sleep more than a few hours each night. His own bed now seems too soft. "He can't sit still. He wants to be outside all the time after so long cooped up underground," said his mother, Angela. "He has this desperate urge to live all the things he has missed out on since the age of 18." He has also had to readjust to going back to school and to meeting new classmates. All of his contemporaries have graduated and gone on to university.

One of Cesare's first appointments was a long talk with the father of Carlo Celadon, a 21-year-old boy who was kidnapped from his home in the northern town of Vicenza exactly one week after Cesare and who is one of five victims still being held by the Calabrian bandits. The others are two youths in their late teens, a 60-year-old man, a 50-year-old woman and Patrizia Tacchella, age 8, whose father owns a jeans manufacturing company in Verona. Patrizia was abducted 100 yards from her home on the day before Cesare Casella was released.

The police believe that all the hostages are being held in the same rugged and sparsely populated area of Aspromonte, in the toe of Italy, where gangs linked to the local 'Ndrangheta Mafia hide their victims in caves. Calabria, one of the poorest regions of Italy, has a reputation as an outpost for outlaws and bandits that stretches well back into the last century, but in the past decade kidnapping has become a multimillion dollar business, the proceeds often recycled into drug-running and other illegal activities. Victims usually come from the rich northern towns of Italy and their lifestyle is studied carefully before the strike is made. They are often sold by one gang to another, as Cesare himself almost certainly was. At least 30 victims have never been heard from again.

Cesare's parents paid a ransom of 100 million lire (US\$83,000) to their son's kidnappers, Carlo Celadon's father, a wealthy industrialist, has handed over 5 billion lire (US\$4.2 million), the highest

ransom ever paid in Italy, but has not heard from the kidnappers for months.

Said Cesare: "My captors used to beat me up from time to time and they kept me chained up by the ankle and the neck, first in a cave 2 meters (6 feet) square, then in a slightly larger one. But the hardest part was the psychological torture. They tried to destroy my morale by telling me that my father was a bastard and that instead of paying the ransom he had only brought a suitcase full of wastepaper. If I'm alive today it's because I refused to let them get down. I told Celadon's father that if his son has a strong will and has faith in his family then I'm sure he will make it."

Cesare's moment of real fear came shortly before his release, when his kidnappers gave him a change of clothing and led him out of the cave. "I knew something was up," he said. "You could tell they were very nervous. I thought they were going to kill me."

As it turned out, Cesare's captors marched him down from the mountains and left him chained to a metal stake near a riverbed. He soon freed himself and, walking to the nearest village, knocked on the door of surprised pensioner Salvatore Giugno, who gave him a bowl of hot milk and called the police.

Many people believe that 'Ndrangheta leaders ordered Cesare's release because their operations were being curtailed by the borders of police and soldiers searching the Calabria region for the boy.

Opinion

Whatever the truth, at least part of the credit should go to his mother, who last year made the 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) trip south to plead for her son's life and galvanize public opinion. Angela Casella's pilgrimage took her to three villages in the Aspromonte region, held to be the nerve centre of the kidnapping operation and notorious for its strict allegiance to the "omertà" code of silence and its deep hostility to the rich, northern part of Italy. Refusing to be intimidated, Cesare's mother pitched a tent and spent the night in Sae Luca to draw attention to her son's plight. In another village she left a message, carved in wood, in the main piazza: "I beg you. Give me back my Cesare." In nearby Platì, she chained herself by the neck to a pole on which she had nailed a poster with the message, "My son has been chained up like this for 510 days."

Angela Casella's mission earned her a reprimand from authorities involved in the case, but the Italian people took her to their hearts and nicknamed her "Mother of Courage." Public anger over police failure to find Cesare led to parliamentary discussion and the decision to order the army into the search.

"At the time it was something I felt I had to do. I had to do something to try to get Cesare back," said Signora Casella, recalling her pilgrimage. "How can I begin to explain the nightmare of a mother whose child has been kidnapped, who every day wonders whether he is dead or alive? It took away all meaning to life. We used to feel guilty for not having the money they demanded of us."

Although comfortably off, the Casellas are not fabulously wealthy, and finding the ransom meant mortgaging the car dealership business that Luigi Casella had built up. Then, 10 days after the drop-off in August 1988 came the bombshell. In a move typical of extortionists, the kidnappers made it known that this would be only the first of three equal payments. The Casellas did not have the money. During the months that followed relations between husband and wife and their other son, 19-year-old Carlo, became strained.

Blow

Then, just after the family's first Christmas without Cesare, there was another blow. Luigi Casella managed to scrape together some more money and offered it to the kidnappers through a coded message in the small advertising section of a newspaper. Soon after a delivery date had been agreed on, however, the magistrate handling the case decided to enforce a rarely used law that forbids families from paying ransoms. As a result the ransom money was confiscated by police.

The Casellas became deeply disillusioned and frustrated with officials dealing with the case, but relations improved after police informed them late one night this winter that Cesare had been set free. "He had to repeat it 10 times before I really took it in," said Angela Casella. "We had suffered so many disappointments over the past two years."

Cesare's first words to his mother on the telephone were, "Hello, is that the Mother of Courage?" The kidnappers sometimes brought me old newspapers and I read about my mother's trip to Calabria," he explained. "It was she who gave me the strength to carry on."

Gas is no magic remedy, say Greens

By Nicholas Moore

LONDON, (Reuters): Environmentalists are worried that claims on behalf of natural gas as the cleanest of the fossil fuels may blur what they regard as the real issue.

They agree that gas probably does less harm to the planet than coal or oil. But they add that it is no magic remedy. The best way to clean up, they say, is to make boilers and engines more efficient and thereby cut energy consumption generally.

"Gas may be cleaner than coal or oil but no fossil fuel is environmentally benign", said Michael Harper at Friends of the Earth, an international pressure group.

Harper said current enthusiasm for gas would be positive if gas were seen as a "bridge" to a cleaner energy policy. But if it delays such a policy shift "it will be a step backwards".

Friends of the Earth and other environmental lobby group do not dispute that gas

emits only about half as much carbon dioxide as coal when it is burned.

Many scientists say an increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is chiefly to blame for a suspected "greenhouse effect" or global warming.

But leaky gas pipelines release methane. Methane is also a suspect, although its contribution is probably smaller.

Estimates of how much methane leaks from the world's gas grids range from two to 10 per cent of the volume carried — the top figure being regarded as absurd by the industry which says that no operator, however inefficient, would ever go on losing money on that sort of scale.

World use of gas is set to rise dramatically, given abundant supply and gas's claim to be "greener" than coal or oil.

The International Energy Agency, the West's Paris-based energy "watchdog", expects gas consumption to double in the next 15 years, partly because it is likely to

be more widely used to generate electricity.

Hitherto coal, fuel oil and nuclear energy have dominated the power generating industry.

The European Economic Community (EEC), for instance, has yet to rescind a ban on gas-fired power stations, imposed in 1975 on grounds that gas was then too precious to make electricity with.

Britain, among EEC nations, is now a trailblazer in a bid to make more use of gas in the power sector. But its policy is criticised by environmentalists and has even led some analysts to accuse free-market Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of an economic and ecological blunder of the kind that she derides Soviet and East European socialist planners for perpetrating.

Thatcher, for ideological reasons, is determined to sell the electricity generating business to private investors just as she has already sold off the state gas company.

oil, airline, aerospace and weapons industries.

But in selling electricity her ministers have hit problems.

They had to pull the nuclear sector from the deal when investors saw forecasts that it could cost up to \$25 billion to dismantle obsolete atomic power stations and bury their radioactive waste in places that might be safe for 1,000 years.

Next, analysts say, would-be investors started worrying about European pressure on Britain to cut the amount of sulphur emitted by its coal-fired power stations. They are blamed for acid rain that is killing fish in Scandinavian lakes.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, now due to be split and sold off, was looking at a desulphurisation programme for its coal-burning plant worth \$3 billion or more — of which only 800 million has so far been spent.



Sue and Mark pose for their wedding photo with an underwater statue.

They took the plunge....

25 ft under water

BRIDE Sue Diamond made quite a splash when she got married ... in a yellow wet-suit and flippers!

Sue and boyfriend Mark Richardson opted for a wet rather than a white wedding and took the plunge in Key Largo, Florida — 25 ft down — as the first British couple to be married underwater on a package offer by Virgin Holidays.

Sue, 29, who lives in London, said: "It was brilliant. Both of us said it was the most exciting thing we have ever done in our lives."

"Mark and I have been together for quite a while and we were going to have a church wedding, so I was looking around for the dress. And then there was the bridesmaid and page-boys to organise. It was never-ending."

"I didn't want to get married in a registry office and Mark thought it would be hypocritical to have a church wedding because we have a six-year-old daughter called Jade."

"Then we read about these underwater weddings in the Virgin Holiday brochure. We thought it sounded lovely and it really was."

"It was miles better than anything we could have had over here."

Sue and 28-year-old Mark, who is a carpet-fitter, exchanged their vows in a sea-bed ceremony just before Christmas. Sue, who wore a veil and carried a bouquet on the sea bed, explained: "We took our vows by ticking them off on a waterproof slate. And we had a box which we had to tick for 'I do'."

"The company weren't supposed to be doing the holidays until next year but Virgin kindly arranged it so we could get married just before Christmas."

The Virgin Wedding package cost £389. The price includes the



Sue and Mark wed in the underwater coral park in Florida.

wedding licence and crash course in deep-sea diving.

Sue told me: "I'm a very strong swimmer but I had never been deep-sea diving before. So we did a diving course. But on the first day of the course I thought, 'Oh no! I'm never going to be able to do it.'"

"I had all the gear on. And it

is quite frightening when you've got that regulator in your mouth and you've got to breathe off that. I just thought, 'No! Just fly me to the next island and I'll get married on that.'"

"I wondered what I'd let myself in for. But it was brilliant. I was sick with nerves but it was amazing. It's

something different. Not everyone wants a great big wedding, do they?"

"I think it will definitely catch on. It's the most beautiful setting — an underwater coral park. And everything is perfectly safe. Obviously they won't send you down unless they think you can dive."

Dresden rises from ashes

DRESDEN, East Germany, (Reuters): After 45 years, Dresden is finally rising from the ruins of war.

With the advent of democracy in East Germany, the people of Dresden are hoping they can restore the 18th century baroque splendour of their city, once a flourishing arts centre known as "The Florence of the North."

As East and West Germany prepare to become a single nation, officials believe that the switch from a centralised communist government to Western-style capitalism will open the way for the money needed to rebuild.

The architectural and cultural heart of Dresden was devastated on the night of February 13-14, 1945, when British and American bombers attacked in three deadly waves.

At least 35,000 people and possibly as many as 120,000 were killed in the raid and the first storm that engulfed Dresden as tens of thousands of incendiary bombs rained down.

The human horror, depicted in Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse Five*, was matched by the material destruction of more than half the buildings in Dresden which at the time was poorly defended because it was neither a military nor industrial centre.

"When you see what there is to rebuild in our city ... there is so much," said Dresden's Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, who is campaigning for financial aid from both East Berlin and the West.

"This is a symbolic place," he said. "Once a slave settlement, Dresden became the capital of the Saxon territory of the Holy Roman Empire. Prince Augustus the strong who commissioned some of Europe's best architects, was responsible for developing it from a mediaeval stronghold to an elegant centre for the arts and culture in the early 18th century."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who visited Dresden last month for a symbolic United Germany versus the rest of the world soccer match, called for "more people with ideas. Not just in Germany, to pump money into the rebuilding project."

"This is not just for the people of Dresden, or East Germany, but all Germany," said Kohl.

West Germany's Dresdner Bank has given 20 million marks (12 million dollars) to the city where it was founded. And the Hamburg-based Bild newspaper, which sponsored the soccer game, expects to donate some two million marks (\$1.2 million) from the amount raised for rebuilding Dresden's schools, a vast, ornate palace in the city centre opposite the shell of the famous Frauenkirche church.

But that is only a drop in the ocean, considering that the full cost of restoring the schloss is estimated at one billion marks (\$600 million) over 10-12 years.

The enormity of the task was described by a young worker at the site of the schloss, who told a reporter: "When I retire at 65, I will still be here."

For two centuries, the city on the Elbe River some 160 km (100 miles) south of Berlin, was the cultural and architectural treasure trove of Saxony and later the Germany united by Bismarck.

The poet Goethe wrote of Dresden, "It is a place which is magnificent," while the philosopher, Johann Gottfried Herder dubbed it, "the Florence of the North," because of its elegant buildings, art collections and music centres.

But since World War Two, with a communist government centred in East Berlin overseeing a moribund economy in East Germany, there was little money available to restore what many considered an irrelevant and costly symbol of Germany's imperial past.

Piles of rubble from the city's architectural heritage lay all over Dresden, overgrown with weeds and grass, symbolising the destruction of the war and also East Germany's economic stagnation.

In 40 years, all East Berlin came up with for restoration was 85 million dollars for a seven-year project to restore the famous Semper Opera House, a spiritual home for some of Germany's best known musicians, including Richard Wagner, Richard Strauss and Carl Maria Von Weber.

هكذا من الناحية



Even very young children can understand the idea of death — so don't tell them white lies, like 'Daddy's gone away', if what you really mean is 'Daddy's never coming back'.

Cinema

Acting is health hazard for Lou

By Vernon Scott

ACTING: A hazardous occupation? Well, not as dangerous as, say, bronc riding.

Hardly as perilous as being a steeplejack, or as brutal as professional football.

Granted, acting for Angela Lansbury is not life-endangering. Nor does Meryl Streep find herself in life-or-death jeopardy very often.

Even Sylvester Stallone has stunt doubles.

So how precarious a profession can acting be?

Just take a look at actor Lou Diamond Phillips to get an idea.

The other day Phillips limped into his hotel room just off the sunset strip. His gimped leg was stitched and bandaged. His right arm was in a cast from his wrist to above his elbow.

Lou was not the picture of health.

Clearly, he recently had taken his lumps. Phillips was thrown and dragged more than 50 yards by a horse he was riding in a scene for *Young Guns II*.

The horse's name is Arrow, which Phillips would like to change to Alpo, despite the fact that they became pals in the original *Young Guns* two years ago.

Making himself as comfortable as possible in a straight-backed chair and lighting a cigarette, Phillips — who sprang to stardom in *La Bamba* playing the late 50s rocker Ritchie Valens — said acting in this age of action pictures can be a hazardous profession.

And while Phillips doesn't compare acting with strolling alone in Central Park at midnight, he says his profession indeed can be dangerous.

"Actors in their 20s and 30s are usually the ones in most danger," he said, "because there are so many physical action pictures made these days. That's my age range. I'm 28 and most of the time I get physical parts."

Kevin Costner, Tom Berenger and other guys in their category are always putting their necks on the line in demanding films. We're put in situations that require a great deal of exertion.

In *Young Guns II* none of us was without our aches and pains, bruises and scratches. It's going to happen and you have to be prepared for it. You accept the fact that you're going to get some physical sore some days.

When I did *First Power* I was dead tired every night from all the fight scenes and running I had to do.

"The minute you get on a horse there's an intangible. You can be hurt before you know it. A couple of weeks before I got dragged, Arrow fell and rolled over on me when we were going up a steep hill on location in New Mexico."

"Luckily, I got up without an injury because the ground was muddy and soft."

"But the dragging episode two weeks ago was a different story. They fired off a gun near Arrow's head and he bolted. I had plastic breakaway shackles on my hands, which I had to hold high over my head for a story point."

"I didn't have my hands on the reins. That made all the difference. With my hands that far away from the reins, I had no way to control the horse," he said.

"Also, I had a noose around my neck, which was supposed to be breakaway, but it wasn't. The rope got caught up on the saddle horn and I was dragged with one foot hung up in a stirrup."

"The horse reared a little bit and I slid off the back. I'm a fairly deft rider and the horse is good, but this time he really spooked. I remember riding and the horse is good, but this time he really spooked. I was trying to kick my foot out of the stirrup. But I was lucky my foot was caught because it took some of the pressure off the noose around my neck."

"I could have been strangled if the noose had been pulled tight. As it was, the noose cinched up around my neck just before the rope broke and the horse got free," he said.

"The horse ran a pinball line of action at a full run, bouncing me off. A wooden pile and a wagon in an attempt to shake me off. I never lost consciousness and concentrated on keeping the noose from choking me."

"I got kicked in the head a couple of times. My first thought was I was going to die, and that made me angry. What a stupid way to go, dragged going to die by a horse in a movie."

"I'm not sure how this night arm was broken. Maybe by a kick. The Ulna in my forearm was broken in four places. My left knee was gashed and the bone chipped. I was on a crutch for more than a week. And I couldn't count the bruises," he said.

Phillips was hospitalized in Albuquerque for three days.

Fortunately, he had only a single scene left to play, which will be made up when his arm is out of the cast.

"It wasn't really a stunt," he said. "It was a simple shot with me riding slowly into camera range."

"Believe me, no one can convince me that acting isn't a dangerous way to make a living."

'It's kinder to teach children the facts of death'

By Frances Hubbard

FIVE-year-old Becky's father died and her mother, trying to soften the blow, told the little girl that "Daddy had gone to Heaven." Becky — that is not her real name — thought he would be home in time for tea. No-one explained to her that her father was gone forever.

Michael's mother committed suicide when he was seven years old. Caring relatives admitted that she was dead, but carefully avoided mentioning why. Michael — again the name is changed — sensed he was being tricked and retreated into a sad, secret world of his own.

These are just two of the hundreds of children who could have been spared months of pain, if only adults had dared to tell them the facts of death. Becky and Michael are case studies from the files of Doctor Dora Black, an expert on how the death of a close relative affects children. And Dr Black is campaigning for more honesty about the tragedy.

The doctor, a consultant child psychiatrist at London's Royal Free Hospital, believes many grown-ups are frightened to face the reality of death. So when they explain the subject to children, they resort to fairy-stories and white lies to hide their own embarrassment.

Dr Black says her research points to one lesson — give children the facts. Youngsters are much tougher than adults think, and they benefit from a direct approach.

Speaking in her bright, toy-filled office at the hospital, Dr Black told me: "One of the reasons that it is much more difficult for children to grieve than for adults is because they're often not told the full story. How can they begin to mourn Daddy or Mummy, for example, when they don't even know he or she is dead?"

"There's very good evidence to show that children as young as five — and probably younger — can grasp the idea of death. So if they don't mummify it, because the subject hasn't been explained, not because they can't understand."

"Adults still give children illogical explanations for death. They're told, 'Daddy's gone to Heaven' or even, 'Daddy's gone to work.' Then they go to the funeral and see Daddy being buried. It just doesn't make sense to them."

"If families faced the very difficult task of talking about death in a simple, straight-forward way, they could prevent a great deal of the children's torment."

Dr Black's advice to adults who have to explain why a parent has "disappeared" is to be honest — "with yourself, as well as with the child." She says children have very finely tuned little-white-lie detectors. They can spot false reasons for the tragedy at a hundred paces.

The doctor's rules for dealing with bereaved children are:

● Don't tell a youngster that the dead parent has gone to heaven, unless you really believe it yourself. After all, why should a non-religious family expect God to soften the blow?

● Try to avoid phrases like "gone to sleep" and "resting in peace", which could confuse a child. A four-year-old might ask where "peace" is — and why Daddy is resting there.

● Children tend to take such phrases literally, a habit which can cause emotional trouble and sometimes lead to needless guilt.

● Dr Black tells also of Tariq — not his real name — a seven-year-old Hindu boy who was convinced he had caused his father's fatal heart-attack. Tariq carried the burden of his "guilty secret" for six months before Dr Black was able to help him.

She met Tariq when he was at the Royal Free. The boy was recovering from an accident where a car skidded into him one morning as he walked to school.

Don't tell them fairy tales, such as 'Daddy has just gone to work', says expert Dr Dora Black. Children as young as five can understand when a parent dies... and they need to grieve, just like a grown-up



Children need to mourn a dead parent before they recover from the loss. Don't be afraid to discuss the death with them.



Consultant child psychiatrist Dora Black tells parents: Teach children the facts at death — it's the kindest thing to do.

causing the attack. And that was why Tariq was so brave in hospital. He believed he was taking his medicine like a man."

Dr Black's story about Tariq's nightmare shows how children can be trapped by their own imaginations when they try to puzzle out death for themselves. She believes youngsters need adult reassurance and guidance to help them through the loss of a parent.

Then there was that terrible case of Michael, whose mother killed herself. The only way he learned of her suicide was when he overheard grown-ups talking about it.

"Suicide is a particularly distressing form of bereavement and it needs a careful approach," Dr Black said. "This boy's grandparents thought they had a very good reason for not telling Michael how his mother died. But the little boy was able to show us, through play, that he had some of an idea of how the tragedy happened."

"He made up a little song that went: 'How and why did Mummy die?' which he repeated endlessly to himself. In fact, he had pieced together that she had killed herself. But, because people weren't discussing it with him, he thought he mustn't talk about it, either."

And so Michael couldn't ask questions to help him understand why people commit suicide. He was all on his own, in this very bewildered, wondering, "Why should Mummy want to kill herself and leave me?"

"He needed me to help him realise that his Mummy's thinking was sick when she decided to take her own life. That she had a sick mind in the same way as he sometimes has a sick tummy. Once Michael understood, he was able to cope much better. Then he knew people would talk to him about his mother's death."

Dr Black believes that a child who can understand and accept the terrible shock of a parent's death has the best chance of recovering from the loss. It is always important to explain just what has happened. And sometimes, it also helps if the child is shown physical evidence that the parent has died.

Dr Black told me: "It might go against modern tastes, but it can be vastly comforting to let a young child see the peaceful body of his or her parent. That way, the child can say a proper 'goodbye' and it gives a kind of ceremony to the loss."

"Provided it is done in the right atmosphere, it should not be a frightening experience for the child. I think it's a pity that more families don't let children see the bodies as a form of final farewell."

The Zeebrugge ferry disaster of 1987, which claimed 190 lives, provided an example of how people need evidence of death before they can face the fact.

One of Dr Black's patients was a little boy who had been orphaned in the tragedy. He and his family had a traumatic three-week wait before they received news of his parents' fate.

Dr Black recalled: "The grandmother of the family just wouldn't believe that her daughter and son-in-law had been on that boat — despite all evidence to the contrary — because their bodies hadn't been found."

"For three weeks, the old lady hoped against hope that they were alive. She was in a state of totally suspended animation while she waited for news. Reality was simply postponed. To her, any explanation was better than the obvious one. She could only believe they were gone after the bodies had been recovered."

"If adults need to see the 'evidence', or at least know that it's there before they can mourn, why should we expect children to be any different?"

Research shows that a mourning or grieving period after bereavement is a vital step along the way to recovery. If children are denied that stage — because of adult efforts to soften the pain they can become disturbed.

Dr Black believes that, if children are allowed to suffer the natural grief that comes after the loss of a parent, they should readjust more quickly to normal life.

She gives the following guidelines to help children cope with bereavement. And the doctor points out some of the warning signs when things go wrong:

● Children need the chance to talk about the dead parent, so don't shut them out. Explain whatever they want to know in simple terms and try to be honest with them. If they suspect they are being bamboozled in some way, it can make them confused and withdrawn.

● If the remaining parent is crippled by grief, then it is important for the child to get away for a while to stay with friends or relatives who can cope better. It gives time for both parent and child to accept the situation.

● Above all, don't let the child believe that he or she is somehow responsible for the parent's death. What is obvious to adults is far from clear to children — so try to explain things from the child's point of view. Remember that a misunderstanding could lead to years of guilt for the child.

● Children of different ages show their grief in different ways. In the under-fives, the danger signals include loss of appetite, bed-wetting, constipation, or forgetting their toilet training.

Dr Black explained that children aged about six to twelve years tend to have more behavioural problems, such as running away, stealing or fighting.

It is only when children reach their teens, she says, that they begin to show "adult" signs of grief. These are the classic symptoms of general sadness and depression, and there can also be difficulty in sleeping or concentrating on daily tasks. Dr Black believes that with the right approach, the tragedy of losing a parent can even bring the family closer together.

She adds: "Normally, healthy children who lose a parent do have quite a high level of emotional disturbance. If you also explain and comfort, you can give them security they need then as at no other time."

Anyone who would like advice on how to cope with a child's bereavement, can contact CRUSE, the national charity for bereavement care, by dialling 01.940.4818

Medicine

Coping with the 'silent epidemic'

A million people suffer head trauma each year in US

By Chris Carola

TROY, New York (AP): The question is simple. It wouldn't stump a child. But for the people in this bright room, nothing is simple.

"What do you call two pieces of bread with something in between?" the therapist asks eight, mostly young adults.

A young woman eagerly raises her hand. "A sandwich," she answers.

Nearby, another therapist holds a piece of white cardboard with the word "January" written in large black letters in front of a young man in a wheelchair. His head is slumped forward, as if he were dozing.

In a large dining room, Sam Been sits at a baby grand piano, playing one of the tunes he composed during 18 months at the New Medico Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Centre, which specialises in the treatment of head injury victims.

With 38 facilities throughout the United States, New Medico is the nation's largest provider of head injury rehabilitation.

The National Head Injury Foundation estimates that more than a million people suffer some degree of head trauma each year. Some 100,000 die from their injuries. Of those that survive, 70,000 to 90,000 are left with impairments that prevent them from living normal lives.

Motor vehicle accidents account for more than half of the head injuries, according to the foundation. Twenty per cent are caused by falls, 12 per cent by violence, and 10 per cent are suffered during sports or recreation activities.

Despite the number of such injuries a year, the foundation calls head trauma a "silent epidemic."

In 1988, the US Department of Health and Human Services established a task force to

address the needs of people with head injuries. The task force found most medical, legal and social systems ill-equipped to deal with victims of traumatic brain injury.

Its report, issued last year, said the medical and legal costs and related economic losses for head injury victims approach 25 billion dollars a year. It recommended encouraging the establishment of state and local head injury groups to provide leadership and coordination and creating a national network of regional head injury research centres.

In the 1980s, demand grew for rehabilitation of head injury victims. Increased use of helmets and seat belts and better emergency medical treatment resulted in more people surviving the trauma, said surgeon John B. Fortune, director of the northeastern New York Regional Trauma Centre at Albany Medical Centre Hospital.

"Ten years ago when we were formed there were about five rehab facilities like New Medico. Now there are about 600," said Silvana Guerri-Lena, spokeswoman for the National Head Injury Foundation, a Massachusetts-based advocacy group.

Caring for such survivors is expensive. Costs can range from 375 dollars to 950 dollars a day, depending on the extent of the rehab programme. The average stay at New Medico is seven months.

A lot of people can't even get into these facilities because their insurance doesn't cover them to be there," said Guerri-Lena. "Their insurance covers them to be in a nursing home for the rest of their lives."

There are less expensive facilities. New Medico's rehab centres stress "gracious living," said spokeswoman Kathryn Rockenstire.

At Troy, English hunting prints and oriental art decorate the walls. Visitors sit in thick

leather chairs and sofas in the lobby. In a lounge decorated with Queen Anne-style furniture, coffee is offered from a silver serving set.

"New Medico's philosophy is to give it a home atmosphere, not an institution," Rockenstire said. "We want this to be a place where family members can feel comfortable."

About 50 head injury patients, ages 16 and older, occupy New Medico's two floors in Troy, said Rockenstire. A nearby centre opened in 1989 and specialises in treating children.

The goal of head injury rehabilitation is to get the patient back home and back to work. But rehabilitation can be long and painful, with no guarantees.

Before his car accident, been was a 24-year-old security guard. When he arrived at New Medico on Sept. 1, 1988, six weeks after his accident, he could not walk or talk. He suffered memory loss and became easily distracted and agitated, common symptoms of traumatic brain injury.

An avid guitar player before the accident, been found he could no longer play because of neurological damage to his brain. Like many head trauma victims, Been's brain messages "misfire," causing muscle spasticity, or contraction, that can severely twist limbs without therapy and braces.

He plays the piano, partly to relieve stress and also because the physical coordination and concentration needed to play proved to be good therapy.

Five months after he arrived at New Medico, Been was walking.

Been, whose insurance paid for his New Medico stay, was discharged last month, and he has returned home to New York City with his wife, Rockenstire said.



Commitment

A journalist was honoured for decades of active charity founded by journalist Charlotte Petersen in the late 1950s helps survivors of Wapnarka concentration camp. For her exemplary commitment to justice and humanity Frau Petersen, 86, is here seen being presented with the Buber-Rosenzweig medal by Eckhard von Nordheim.

Hubble space telescope

Quantum leap in mankind's power of observation

Historic milestone

By William Harwood

CAPE Canaveral, Florida: The shuttle Discovery is set to launch the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope this week, an astronomical time machine expected to revolutionize knowledge of the cosmos and the "big bang" thought to have created it some 15 billion years ago.

Operating 380 miles (160 km) above earth's hazy atmosphere, the 25,500-pound (11.5-ton) telescope, the most expensive satellite ever built, will allow astronomers to study the heavens with 10 times the clarity of ground-based instruments, opening a new window on the universe.

Sensitive enough to see the light of a single firefly 10,000 miles (16,000 km) away, the Hubble space telescope is the centerpiece of what promises to be a new golden age of astronomy, a scientific Renaissance marking the most significant leap forward since Galileo first trained his spyglass skyward some 400 years ago.

"We'll be like the little nearsighted child in the classroom, who is given a pair of glasses and at last can see what the teacher's been writing on the blackboard," said Lennard Fisk, NASA's associate administrator for space science and applications.

Running seven years behind schedule and more than \$1 billion over budget, the Hubble Space Telescope, arguably the most important scientific payload ever built, is scheduled for launch Tuesday at 8:47 am (1247 GMT) aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

At the controls for the 35th shuttle mission will be commander Loren Shriver, 45, and co-pilot Charles Bolden, 43. Their crewmates are flight engineer Steven Hawley, 38, Bruce McCandless, 32, and Kathryn Sullivan, 38, a geologist and the first American woman to walk in space.

Critical yardstick

But opening a window on the early universe is only one of Hubble's goals.

"Equally important observations may show whether black holes — the collapsed remnants of massive stars — provide the power for mysterious high-energy quasars at the edge of the observable universe."

By studying certain pulsating variable stars at greater distances than ever before, the Hubble space telescope will allow scientists to greatly improve the critical yardstick used to measure the size of the universe and in the process determine the speed of the universe's expansion to within 10 percent. That, in turn, will help refine estimates of the age of the cosmos.

Closer to home, the telescope's wide field-planetary camera will routinely take pictures of the planets in earth's solar system, with a level of detail rivaling that of flyby space probes. Such long-term studies could pay off in improved knowledge about the forces that shape earth's environment.

Add to a project that could have profound intellectual, philosophical and religious implications, the Hubble space telescope may prove once and for all whether planets circle other stars. If unambiguous evidence is found, it will be more difficult than ever before to assume life on earth is unique.

"What strikes me about this instrument is it's widely touted as, and I think this is accurate, the single greatest quantum leap in mankind's power of observation of his solar system and the cosmos that has occurred since Galileo's first (use) of the telescope," Sullivan said in an interview.

Data from the telescope, she said, will answer such questions as "how did the universe come to be, what are the forces that created it, that govern it, that sustain it? What are the forces that drive the dynamics of planetary atmospheres, that drive the dynamics of this atmosphere?"

"All of those things and the physics that govern them, we should be able to get much more refined understandings of, great new insights and glimpses into and possibly even discover new processes that we really hadn't suspected before."

Costliest payload ever launched

Congress approved the space telescope project in 1977 with launch originally scheduled for 1983. But the flight was repeatedly delayed, first by problems that slowed the Shuttle programme and then by trouble — with the telescope itself.

Launch ultimately was scheduled for the fall of 1986, but those plans went up in smoke along with the Challenger disaster, which grounded the shuttle programme for nearly three years.

The telescope's many delays pushed the price tag to some \$1.5 billion, almost the cost of a new space shuttle, making the instrument the most expensive civilian science payload ever launched.

Throwing in the cost of ground equipment, annual operating expenses for the Space Telescope Science Institute, planning and development of Shuttle servicing missions and other factors, the total cost of the telescope project will reach \$2.35 billion by the end of the first year of operation.

Despite the frustration of the repeated delays, a skyrocketing budget and improvements in technology that have allowed ground telescopes to close the gap in performance, Hubble's launch this week nonetheless marks a major milestone in the history of science.

The Hubble space telescope measures 43.5 feet (13.25 m) long, 14 feet (4.25 m) wide and weighs 25,500 pounds (11.6 tons). Built by Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. of Sunnyvale, California, the telescope was designed to be serviced by spacewalking shuttle astronauts and to operate at least 15 years.

At the heart of the telescope is a 1,827-pound (829-kg), 94.5-inch (2.40-m) wide mirror built by Perkin-Elmer Corp. of Danbury, Connecticut. Coated with a highly reflective layer of aluminum-magnesium just 4 millionths of an inch (10 millionths of a centimeter) thick, the mirror reflects 85 percent of the visible light that falls on it.

While it is not particularly large as major telescopes go — the Hale telescope at Mount Palomar, California, has a 200-inch (508-cm) mirror, for example — Hubble's mirror is the most perfect ever made with no peaks or valleys greater than about half a millionth of an inch (2.5 millionths of a centimeter). If the surface of the earth was that smooth, Mount Everest would be less than 5 inches (127 mm) tall.

The Hubble space telescope is a Cassegrain design, that is, light enters the instrument, bounces off the primary mirror and back up to a smaller, 12.2-inch (31-cm) mirror mounted in the center of the telescope tube.

From there, the light is directed back through a 24-inch-wide (62-cm) hole in the primary and brought to a focus 4.9 feet (1.49 m) below the surface of the main mirror.

"When Hubble lifts off... we will witness not just another launch, but rather a turning point in humankind's perception of itself and its place in the universe," Fisk said.

In the 1500s, Copernicus demonstrated that the earth was not the center of the universe. In the first half of this century (American astronomer) Edwin Hubble revealed the mind-numbing vastness of the universe with its countless galaxies spread over billions of light years.

"I do not know what (the space telescope) will reveal about the origin of the universe and our place in it," Fisk said. "But I am very confident it will be as profound in its effect on our perception of who we are as such previous revolutions in astronomy."

If all goes well, Hawley, using Discovery's 50-foot (15-m) robot arm, will release the giant telescope, the size of a railroad tank car, into its record 380-mile-high (612-million-km) orbit — twice as high as shuttles usually fly — on the second day of the flight.

After making sure the telescope is operating properly — McCandless and Sullivan will be standing by for an emergency spacewalk if necessary — the astronauts will devote the rest of their five-day mission to earth photography and a series of minor experiments.

Discovery is scheduled to land on a concrete runway at Edwards Air Force Base, California, at 10:02 am (1402 GMT) Easter Sunday.

Engineers on the ground, meanwhile, will spend the next six to eight months calibrating and testing the telescope's systems and instruments before turning Hubble over to astronomers at the Space Telescope Science Institute at John Hopkins University in Baltimore for around-the-clock observations.

The telescope is named after Edwin P. Hubble, a Rhodes scholar, amateur boxer and Kentucky lawyer who, in the 1920s, proved the existence of galaxies and discovered the universe is expanding.

That key insight, made with a telescope only slightly larger than the one that bears his name, was crucial to the Big Bang theory, which holds that space and time exploded into existence billions of years ago in a cosmic fireball that has been expanding and dissipating ever since.

Scientists believe they understand how matter was created in the early universe, but the step from a featureless universe of uniform density to the creation of stars, galaxies and clusters of galaxies is not at all clear.

Working above earth's obscuring atmosphere, the Hubble space telescope will be able to study stars and galaxies that are much farther away — and thus much younger — than is possible from the ground, giving astronomers a chance, for the first time, to study galaxies in the process of evolution.

Consider Earth's Sun. Light from the sun, traveling at 186,000 miles (300,000 km) per second, takes about eight minutes to cover the 92 million miles (148,000,000 km) to earth. Thus, when one looks at the sun, one is looking at the sun as it appeared eight minutes earlier. To what sense, the sun's light, minutes away?

Likewise, when an astronomer studies a galaxy one billion light years away, roughly the limit for practical work using earth-based telescopes, he or she is studying an object as it appeared 10 billion years ago. But the universe is thought to be about 15 billion years old.

The Hubble space telescope's superb optical system has 10 times the resolving power, or clarity, of earth-based instruments and it will be able to study objects that are little more than blurs when viewed from the ground.

"Since we can see 10 times better (with the telescope) we will be able to look back up to 10 billion light years to see what galaxies look like," said NASA astronomer Edward Weiler. "The exciting thing is, we hope we see some evolution, we hope to see they're different. But we have no idea what we'll see."

If Hubble detects signs of galactic evolution as astronomers hope, the scientists may learn details about how swarms of stars like earth's Milky Way formed shortly after the big bang when the universe's density was essentially uniform — a major problem for modern cosmology.

Targets...

The Hubble space telescope is equipped with five telephone-booth-sized instruments mounted behind or to the side of the focal plane to study the concentrated light: two cameras, two spectrographs to split incoming light into its component colors and one photometer, a sort of high-tech light meter.

In addition, one of three "fine guidance sensors," which help the telescope lock onto and track its targets, can be used to obtain highly accurate stellar position data.

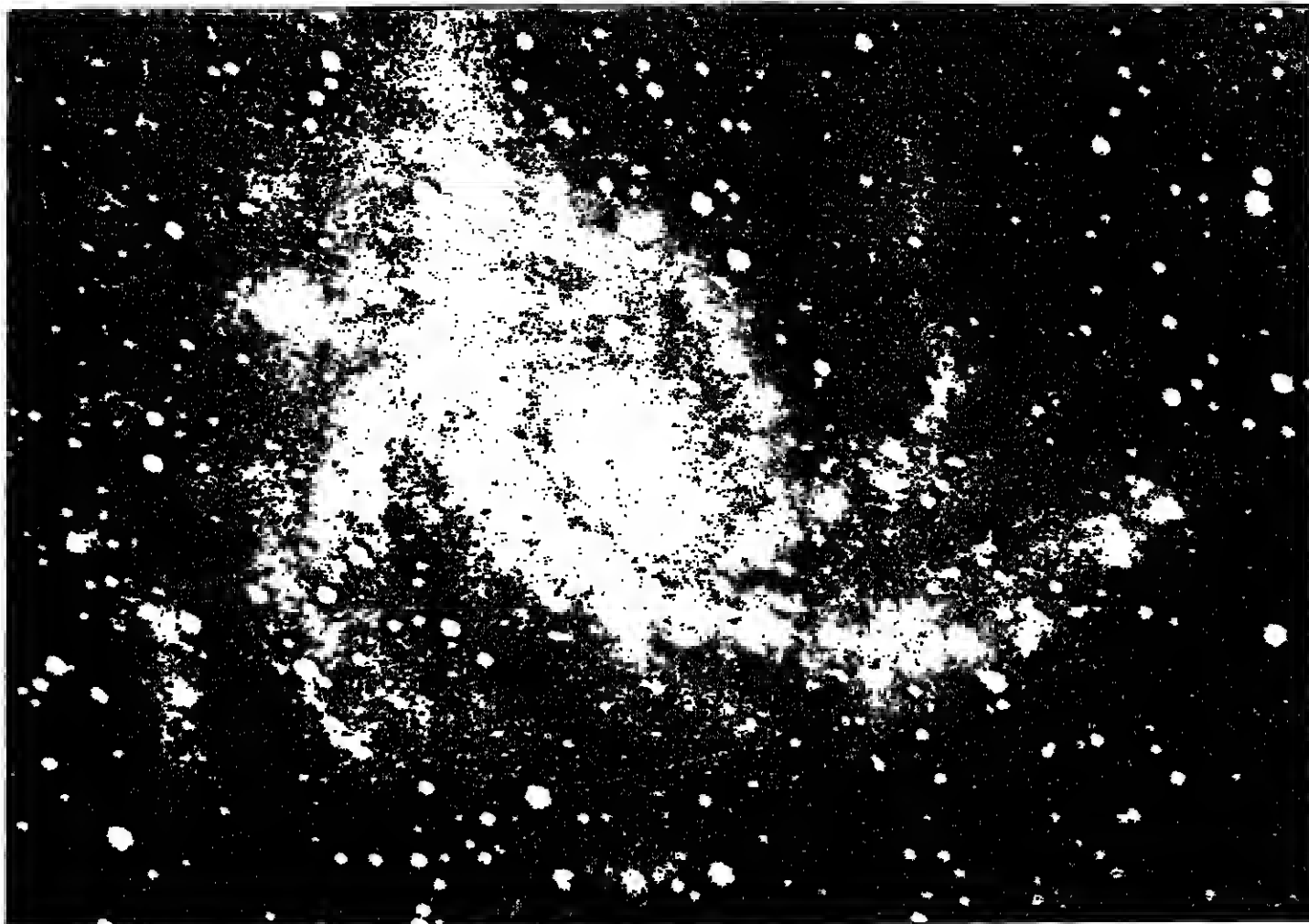
Perhaps the most important single instrument is the wide field-planetary camera, an instrument the size of a baby grand piano that uses an array of state-of-the-art "charged coupled devices," or CCDs, to take ultra-sharp digital images of deep space targets.

Operating in its "planetary" mode, the camera will be able to take glorious snapshots of planets in earth's solar system.

Pictures of Jupiter, for example, will be roughly comparable to those taken by the voyager probes five days before their flybys and astronomers will be able to routinely track dust storms on Mars and other phenomena.

"Voyager produced enormous amounts of data. The Space Telescope will be able to study the long-term phenomena, the long-term climatology of Jupiter. Perhaps we'll learn more about hurricanes by studying (Jupiter's) great red spot in detail."

Other targets for the wide field-planetary camera include double stars in which black holes may be sucking away material from visible companions, colliding galaxies that may serve as a breeding ground for new stars and star systems that might harbor other planets.



"We'll be like the little nearsighted child in the classroom who is given a pair of glasses and at last can see what the teacher's been writing on the blackboard." NASA science chief Lennard Fisk discussing the Hubble space telescope.

Nasa leaves nothing to chance

GIVEN the importance of the space telescope to science, NASA is leaving nothing to chance when it comes to "placing the costly payload into orbit."

The telescope will be deployed into a 380-mile circular orbit to minimize the breaking effects of atmospheric friction on the instrument and to eliminate the need for frequent shuttle flights to increase its altitude.

If all goes well, Hawley, using Discovery's 50-foot-long (15-m) robot arm, will latch onto the Hubble space telescope around 9 am on the second day of the flight.

Four latches holding it inside the cargo bay then will be released along with a power cable supplying electricity from the shuttle. From this point on, the telescope will be operating on batteries until its two European-built solar arrays are deployed.

Working by remote control and marking his progress on television monitors, Hawley will slowly lift the telescope about 15 feet (4.6 m) straight "up" from the payload bay and rotate the instrument 90 degrees about its long axis.

April 10
Launch

Super optics

Clues wanted

By William Harwood

NASA's Hubble space telescope is a marvel of high technology, capable of seeing a single firefly at 10,000 miles (16,000 km) or the glow of a flashlight a quarter of a million miles (400,000 km) away.

Its guidance system is so accurate it could keep a laser beam focused on a dime at a distance of 300 miles (50 km) for 24 hours at a time, a feat equivalent to sinking a 1,500-mile (2,400-km) golf putt.

Its faint object camera is so sensitive it could distinguish a car's left and right headlights from 2,500 miles (4,000 km) away — the distance between Atlanta and San Francisco — and tell if a nickel is heads or tails from a distance of 6 miles (9.5 km).

The faint object camera, one of six instruments on the telescope, can intensify starlight 100,000 times, the same as increasing the light of a candle flame to the brightness of the noon sun.

Overall, the telescope has 10 times the resolution, or clarity, of ground-based instruments, the difference between being able to read the big letters on the second row of an eye chart and reading the bottom line.

The telescope's 7.8-foot (2.38-m) primary mirror is the smoothest piece of glass ever made. If the surface of the earth was as smooth as the telescope's mirror, Mount Everest would be about 5 inches (13 cm) high.

Despite their great sensitivity, the telescope's five primary telephone-booth-sized instruments — two cameras, two light-splitting spectrographs and one photometer, a sort of high-tech light meter — require only about 150 watts of power, the amount used by a typical three-way light bulb.

The telescope's digital images and other data will be beamed down to scientists on the ground at up to one million bits per second — fast enough to transmit the contents of a 30-volume encyclopedia in 42 minutes.

"With the space telescope, we're increasing astronomical capability more than it's ever been increased since Galileo started using a telescope 400 years ago," said NASA astronomer Edward Weiler.

The key to the Hubble space telescope's success is high technology, near perfect optics and the absence of earth's atmosphere, which distorts starlight, blocks out some types of light altogether and causes stars to twinkle when viewed from the ground.

"Another way of looking at it is the human eye can detect a standard flashlight bulb at about 2 miles (3.2 km). With the space telescope, you could see that flashlight bulb on the moon, a distance of a quarter of a million miles (40,000 km). In general, the space telescope is about 10 billion times as sensitive as the human eye."

An optical system's resolution is a measure of how close two objects can be and still be distinguished as separate. If the human eye could resolve objects with the clarity of the space telescope, Weiler said, "You could read this morning's Miami Herald headlines from the Kennedy Space Centre, a distance of about 200 miles (320 km)."

By Rob Stein

IN a sleek five-story brick and glass building on the edge of the bucolic John Hopkins University campus, astronomers are girding for an invasion.

They're not readying for some bug-eyed alien from outer space — they're preparing for a deluge of information.

The Space Telescope Science Institute was built to collect, store and disseminate a flood of new, potential revolutionary data about universe collected by the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope.

The railroad car-sized telescope, hailed as the most advanced scientific instrument of its kind, will be placed into Earth orbit during the upcoming flight of the space shuttle Discovery.

After NASA fine-tunes the telescope 380 miles (610 km) above Earth's surface for about eight months, the institute will take control of the long-awaited space probe as it circles the globe every 90 minutes or so for the next 15 years.

"I think if you had to say, 'where is mission control?' it would be here. In particular, 'where is science mission control?' it's here," said Eric Chaisson, a senior scientist at the institute. "We're very, very excited."

In a typical day, the telescope will gather enough data about the universe to fill two complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica, requiring state-of-

the-art digital optical disk technology to handle the load.

"It's going to be an embarrassment of riches," said Chaisson, who likened using the data to trying to "drink from a fire hose."

The institute's staff of about 400, including 100 astronomers, will work around-the-clock in 8-hour shifts, carrying out projects and checking, analyzing and storing the data.

To run its various activities, the institute needed the world's largest civilian computer program — more than 2 million lines of code, Chaisson said.

The institute is in charge of who gets to use the \$1.5 billion telescope, funneling requests through a complex review system. For the first year, 162 astronomers' projects have been approved, plus five by amateur astronomers.

"Every astronomer in the world wants to use it," Chaisson said.

Choosy scientists can come to the institute, sit before banks of swirling, glowing computer screens and help send the commands that literally point the telescope and its five sensitive instruments precisely in the right direction.

The telescope will beam digital information about various forms of light to an orbiting relay station, which will send the data to an Earth station in White Sands, New Mexico.

From there the data will bounce back up to

another domestic communications satellite and then back down again to the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, where it will be sent over land lines to the institute.

The astronomer who ordered particular information will get a magnetic tape containing the data as well as graphs and possibly black-and-white and high-quality color photographs. After one year of exclusivity, the data will be made available to anyone who wants it.

Altho the data will be stored on optical disks, which look like the mirror-like CDs many people now use to play music at home except they are about the size of an old vinyl 33 RPM LP.

Each disk can store about an average day's worth of data, meaning the telescope will fill more than 350 disks yearly, said operations manager James Crocker.

The archive of disks will be housed in "optical juke boxes," which look like big metal cabinets but work "just like the old Wurlitzers," except the disks are stored horizontally instead of vertically, Crocker said.

"The platters go in through a little opening, where there is a little merry-go-round. The user requests a particular piece of information, it's located on a disk and the disk slides onto something like an old dumb-waiter," Crocker said.



The Hubble space telescope promises a scientific Renaissance marking the most significant leap forward since Galileo first trained his spyglass some 400 years ago.

By Rebecca Kolberg

SURPRISES. That's what Riccardo Giacconi, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, most wants the Hubble space telescope to find when it peers into the depths of the universe from its orbit high above Earth's hazy atmosphere.

Giacconi is no stranger to the unexpected. In 1962, his team rocketed the astronomical world when it reported a sounding rocket originally sent up to study the moon's radiation had stumbled upon extremely powerful X-rays coming from a source outside the solar system.

That astonishing discovery firmly established the important field of X-ray astronomy, which is crucial to the study of energetic quasars, the blasted remnants of exploded stars and other high-energy clues to the early days of the universe.

Now, as chief of the institute responsible for science operations of the \$1.5 billion telescope, Giacconi said he suspects the biggest accomplishment of the pioneering mission will be detection of "objects that nobody has thought of before."

Many superlatives have been heaped upon the telescope, which is expected to provide a view of the universe 10 times sharper than current ground-based telescopes.

Giacconi acknowledged observations made by the 43-foot (13-m) orbiting telescope should have enormous impact on all aspects of astronomy. But the Italian-born astrophysicist cautioned that some expectations may be a bit overblown.

"I find it hard to believe that we would change our view of the world as radically as Galileo did 400 years ago" when he trained the first fledgling telescope on the heavens, Giacconi said.

Another exaggerated claim that has been made for the Hubble telescope is that it will enable astronomers to peer deeper into the cosmos than ever before, he said.

"Can we see back further than we have before? The answer clearly is 'no.' We have already seen the limits of the knowable universe," Giacconi said.

Astronomers already have detected mysterious objects like quasars a staggering 12 billion to 14 billion light years away from Earth. One light year — the distance light travels in a year at 186,000 miles (300,000 km) per second

— is equal to about 6 trillion miles (9.656 trillion km). The space telescope will not be able to see much farther than 14 billion light years, which is just one billion light years away from the limit marking the universe's fiery birth in a big bang explosion some 15 billion years ago.

But Hubble will be able to study objects from the early age of the universe with 10 times the resolution, or clarity, of ground-based instruments. And therein lies its power.

Data from Hubble is expected to fill in the gap between the appearance of fledgling objects shortly after the big bang and the formation of large-scale structures, like galaxy clusters, about 10 billion years later.

"We will be able to look further back for certain types of objects that we did before," Giacconi said. "We want to go to that region to look for evolution of structure."

Currently, astronomers are baffled about how the "lumpy" structure of today's universe — marked by massive clusters of galaxies and giant dark voids — could have arisen from a big bang explosion believed to have scattered matter evenly throughout space.

Some scientists think the explanation may lie with dark matter — a form of matter not yet directly observed, or with unknown phenomena. In that vein, Giacconi posed the question: "Are there forces in the universe that act over very large distances, or are the only forces those we can detect here in our laboratories on earth?"

Because the Hubble telescope's view is unobstructed by earth's atmosphere, Giacconi said it can eliminate many calibration steps required for earth-based readings — an improvement should provide more precise estimates of the age of the universe.

But what might the telescope find during its 15-year mission that would excite the average man?

Giacconi has the answer: a planet orbiting a star in the same way earth circles the sun.

That may be a tough order to fill, he said, noting a relatively small planet could be easily "lost" to a star's glare.

"We will try (to find a planet outside our solar system). Whether we will succeed, we don't know," he said.

Giacconi, a former astrophysics professor at Harvard, said delays in launching the telescope had a silver lining: it gave engineers time to expand the telescope's power capacity, to add better electronic equipment and to eliminate problems with ground software.

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SPORTS

England all out for 358

Lamb slams W. Indies for ton

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 8. (Reuters) Acting captain Allan Lamb hit a brilliant 119 to lead a spirited England fightback in the fourth cricket Test against the West Indies yesterday.

Lamb became the first England captain this century to score a hundred in his first Test in charge and his brave innings led England to 358 in reply to the West Indies first innings of 446.

In 40 minutes batting at the end of the third day the West Indies extended their lead by 19 for the loss of Gordon Greenidge, lbw to Clive Lloyd.

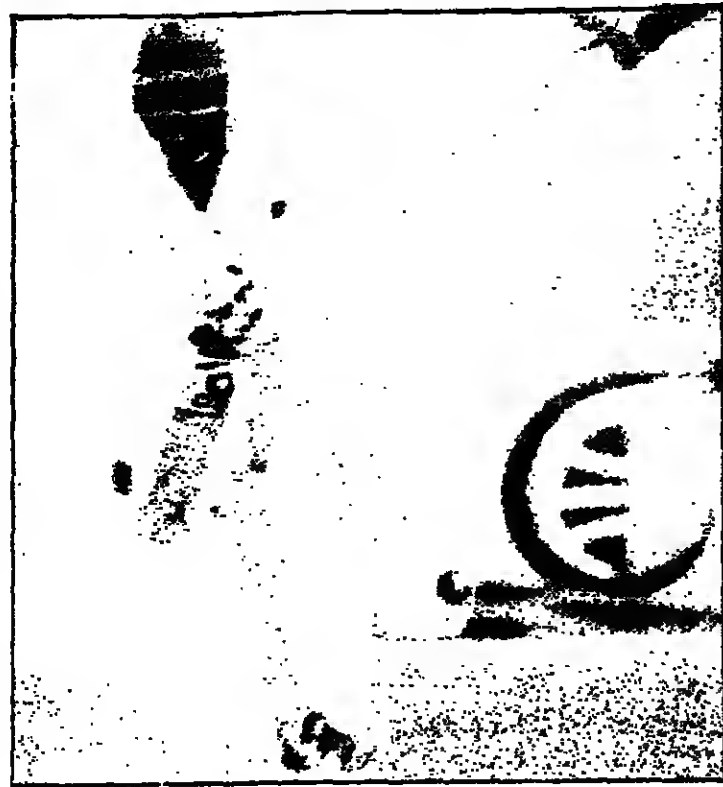
It was Lamb's sixth hundred against the West Indies, his second in the series and his 11th in total. Three of these centuries have come in his last four Tests.

The last man to score a century on his debut as England captain was A.C. McLaren, who made 109 against Australia in Sydney in December 1897.

Lamb was given staunch support by Robin Smith, who made 62 out of a stand of 193 in 64 overs for the fourth wicket.

But when Lamb was out, the last seven wickets fell for only 90 runs with the late middle order and tail unable to cope with the second new ball.

Lamb played in exemplary fashion, with England trying to protect a 1-0 lead in the series, but two overs after the new ball was taken he pushed half-forward to



Lamb: hit 6th ton against W. Indies

Curtly Ambrose and was lbw to a delivery which kept low.

Although he had played and missed several times, particularly to Marshall in the morning, Lamb never gave a chance in his 338-minute stay. He faced 225 balls and hit 14 fours.

Smith, by contrast, was put down four times. Gus Logie failed to hold a difficult chance at short leg off Ezra Moseley when Smith had made 21; Carlisle Best dropped a sitter at second slip off Ambrose when the South Africa-born batsman was on 32; and

Moseley had him dropped on 41 and 45 by Viv Richards and Jeff Dujon respectively.

Best, as subsequently X-rays revealed, suffered a hairline fracture of his left thumb and will bat in the second innings only in an emergency. He is out of the final Test, which starts on Thursday in Antigua.

Smith batted 369 minutes for his second 50 of the series but his marathon effort was ended by a beauty from Moseley which straightened and clipped the off stump.

Overall, Smith faced more balls than Lamb—239, of which he hit only four for four.

Marshall quickly accounted for David Capel, who was brilliantly caught at second slip by Greenidge for two, and Nasser Hussain, who was lbw to a breakback for a plucky 18.

Phillip DeFreitas helped Jack Russell add 32 valuable runs for the eighth wicket before Russell was lbw to Ian Bishop coming round the wicket.

Three balls later DeFreitas hit a full toss from Ambrose straight back to the bowler. His 24 included a six flicked off his legs off Moseley.

Devon Malcolm was bowled second ball off a no-ball but in the same over hit Ambrose twice for four to the huge enjoyment of a 3,000-strong English contingent. But soon afterwards Bishop, again coming round the

wicket, knocked out his off stump.

West Indies lost Greenidge for three in the sixth over when he was plumb lbw going back to Small, the ball keeping low. Bad light ended play with 17 overs still remaining despite the fact that cricket had been played for over six and three quarter hours.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 446 (C Best 164, V Richards 70)

ENGLAND first innings (overnight 155 for three):

A. Stewart c Richards b Moseley 45

W. Larkins c Richardson b Bishop 0

R. Bailey b Bishop 17

A. Lamb lbw b Ambrose 119

R. Smith b Moseley 62

N. Hussain lbw b Marshall 18

D. Capel c Greenidge b Marshall 2

R. Russell lbw b Bishop 7

P. DeFreitas c and b Ambrose 24

G. Small not out 1

D. Malcolm b Bishop 12

Extras (B-14) lbw-9 w-3 nb-25) 51

Total 358

Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-46 3-75 4-268

5-297 6-301 7-308 8-340 9-340

Bowling: Bishop 24.3-8-70-4

Ambrose 25.2-22-2 Moseley 28-3-11-2 Marshall 23-6-55-2 Richards 9-4-14-0

West Indies second innings:

G. Greenidge lbw b Small 3

D. Haynes not out 10

R. Richardson not out 6

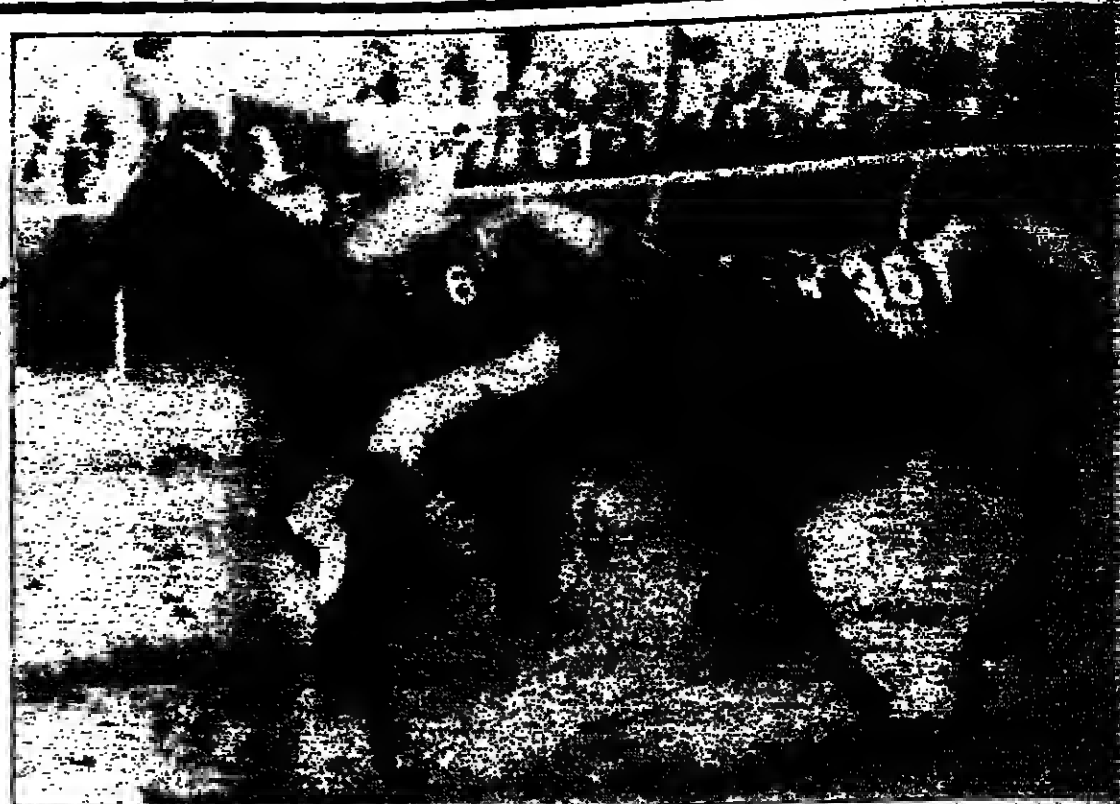
Extras 19

Total (for one wicket) 13

Fall of wickets: 1-13

To bat: C. Best, V. Richards, G. Logie, J. Dujon, M. Marshall, E. Moseley, I. Bishop, C. Ambrose

Bowling: Malcolm 3.4-0-12-0 Small 3-1-7-1



Davies falls off his horse (No. 36). (Reuters wirephoto)

Mr Frisk wins Grand National

LIVERPOOL, England, April 8. (Reuters) Bold jumping Mr Frisk, ridden by amateur jockey Marcus Armytage, won the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree yesterday in record-breaking time after a dramatic battle with the well-fancied Durham Edition.

Mr Frisk covered the four and a half miles (7.2 kilometres) in eight minutes 47.2 seconds, shattering 14.1 seconds off the 1973 record of Red Rum.

Mr Frisk had been in the first two for much of the race, duelling for the lead with the Maryland Hunt Cup winner Uncle Merlin, ridden by Welshman Hywel Davies.

The pair came to Becher's Brook on the second circuit 10 lengths clear of the field, but Uncle Merlin, like the winner American owned, unsaddled Davies, leaving Mr Frisk and Armytage in command.

Durham Edition, second in the 1988 Grand National, gave chase and approaching the last joined Mr Frisk in the lead.

On the long run in it looked as if the greater experience of jockey Chris Grant might tell but Mr Frisk, responding brilliantly to his jockey,



Mr Frisk (right) wins the race.

hung on to win by three-quarters of a length in one of the most exciting finishes for years.

Mr Frisk, who revelled in the firm going, started at 16-1. Durham Edition, also racing on his favourite surface, was a 9-1 chance. The pair finished 20 lengths clear of Rums, ridden by Neale Doughty, who won the

National in 1984 on Hello Dandy. The fourth horse home in the 38-strong field was the 7-1 favourite Brown Windsor, the mount of John White. Irish Raider, last of the favourites, the mount of Charlie Swan, finished fifth ahead of English-trained Bigsun, partnered by Richard Dunwoody.

SPORTS BRIEFS

W. German soccer

BONN, April 8. (Reuters) West German First Division soccer results yesterday:

Frankfurt 0 Werder Bremen 0

VFB Stuttgart 0 B. Leverkusen 0

Karlsruhe 0 Hamburg 2

Cologne 0 Borussia M 0

Wolffsh 0 Nuremberg 1

Hamburg 0 Borussia D 1

Bayer L 0 Bayern Munich 2

Played on Friday

Bochum 0 St Pauli 3

Kaiserslautern 0 Fortuna D 0

NBA games

NEW YORK, April 8. (Reuters) Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Philadelphia 112 Atlanta 105

Boston C 115 Miami 105

Chicago 109 Dallas 100

Milwaukee 110 Washington 108

San Antonio 111 Sacramento 98

Phoenix 115 L A Clippers 103

Pons honoured

OSVIEDO, Spain, April 8. (Reuters) Spain's world motorcycle champion Alfonso 'Pons' Pons was yesterday awarded the Prince of Asturias sports prize, his country's top sporting accolade, the jury said.

Agassi beaten

INGLEWOOD, California, April 8. (AP) No 21 ranked Andre Chesnokov of the Soviet Union used a blistering two-faced backhand to upset No 4 Andre Agassi 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 last night in the exhibition Forum Tennis Challenge.

Cup pitch

MILAN, Italy, April 8. (Reuters) Milan authorities and the city's 120 soccer clubs, AC Milan and Internazionale, yesterday failed to agree on a timetable to relay the pitch where the World Cup finals kick off in two months.

France triumph

LEEDS, England, April 8. (Reuters) France ended an eight-match losing run against Britain with a shock 25-18 Rugby League success at Headingley yesterday.

Plans abandoned

SUZUKA, Japan, April 8. (Reuters) Defending champion Mercedes were forced to abandon plans to use their new C11 car in the opening round of the World Sportscar Championship today when it was damaged in practice.

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club's marathon game held on Tuesday:

1. Tibb & Sherin

2. D. Pereira & Mrs Sape

1st handicap: Nabil Akel & Lollo Murti

2nd handicap: Dona Materny & Adel

Leopards win

NAIROBI, April 8. (Reuters) Kenya's A.F.C. Leopards beat St. Louis of the Seychelles 4-2 (halftime 3-2) in an African Champions' Cup first round, first leg soccer match yesterday.

Casuals avenge defeat

CASUALS avenged last week's defeat by Habana when they knocked them out of the cup at Almadi on Friday. The victory means that Casuals hold a 3-2 advantage over Habana in their meetings this year. After last week's close encounter, Friday's game was somewhat more decisive as Casuals ran out winners by 72 runs.

Habara won the toss and put Casuals in, preferring to emulate their run chase of the previous week. It seemed a good move when Ron Seward, last week's centurion, played a lazy cut to gully in Fitzpatrick's 2nd over and was easily caught by Rao. This enabled Kevin Wells to join John Arton-Powell in the middle and the two began to push on the scoring at a good rate. With the score at 44 Wells (18) was left cursing a stupid shot which left his stumps disarranged and a smile on Fitzpatrick's face.

Dave Short was next man in and he played sensibly as JAP at the other end began to warm to the task. Dave Talbot bowled Short for 15 and followed up with a similar dismissal for Adi Selveratnam (18) just as the big man was beginning to look very dangerous. Meanwhile JAP was going from strength to strength and playing a perfect innings, a mixture of aggression and solidity which saw him strike three mighty sixes and six fours. He never gave a chance nor looked in danger on his way to a superb 94 not out. Val Tudahl (11) and Ray Fernando (10) also chipped in as Casuals amassed 183 in their 30 overs.

In reply Habara looked to Craig Shipton and Peter

Hunt to give them a solid start but suffered a major setback when Adi Selveratnam bowled Hunt with his first ball. Chris Haseman came in and immediately began to look for his shots. He was just looking dangerous on 28 when Richard Snowden produced the perfect delivery which knicked the edge and was caught behind by Ray Fernando. Haseman sportingly walking. The breakthrough was in the middle of an excellent spell of bowling from Snowden who beat the bat on several occasions.

With his dismissal of the frustrated Martin Coulson (3), Snowden chalked up his 100th wicket in Kuwait over a period of 41/2 seasons. Earlier on Selveratnam had put the pressure firmly on Habara when he clean bowled Shipton for a cagey 5. Habara was left with only Dave Talbot as a front line batsman and he patiently pushed the score up to 104 with the aid of Williams (15).

The task was still uphill but became impossible after a remarkable spell of bowling from Dave Short. In the space of just seven deliveries from him 5 wickets fell. Williams was bowled, Fitzpatrick needlessly run out first ball. Talbot (34) bowled next ball, Stein caught in the gully by Snowden 2 balls later and then Stout bowled by Short's next ball an over later.

Habara had slumped from 104 for 4 to 111 for 9 in the space of two overs. When Rao declined to bat through injury, Casuals were left clear victors. Snowden's figures of 8-1-26-2, and Short's of 3-1-14-4 were clear testimonies of the victory.

Paez retains title

LAS VEGAS, April 8. (AP) Jorge Paez of Mexico, who escaped with a draw the last time he fought Louie Espinoza, rallied in the last half of their bout yesterday to capture a 12-round split decision and retain his IBF featherweight title.

Paez, winning for the second straight time by split decision, successfully defended his 126-pound International Boxing Federation

crown for the seventh time.

Paez took six of the last seven rounds on the cards of two ringside judges to beat Espinoza. They fought to a draw last May during their first meeting for the IBF crown.

"I didn't feel I won decisively, but I knew in the final round I had won," the flamboyant Mexican champion said. "It wasn't easy."



Espinoza (left) hits Paez with a right. (Reuters wirephoto)

MOTORCYCLING

Gardner captures pole for US GP

MONTEREY, Calif., April 8. (Reuters) Australian Wayne Gardner recorded the fastest lap in yesterday morning qualifying session and earned pole position for today's US Grand Prix motorcycle race.

The stocky Gardner took his Honda around the twisting, 2.196-mile (3.534 km), 11.4-turn Laguna Seca Raceway course in one minute 25.908 seconds at an average speed 92.024 mph (148-kph) to claim provisional pole.

American Wayne Rainey, winner of the season's first race in Japan two weeks ago, will start his Yamaha next to Gardner on the front row after a 1:26.106 lap in the final session.

American Kevin Schwantz posted a 1:26.406 on his Suzuki in the morning session to earn the third spot on the grid.

Floyd extends lead to two strokes

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 8. (Reuters) Rejuvenated Raymond Floyd, bidding to become the oldest winner of both the Masters and the US Open, shot a four-under-par 68 yesterday to extend his lead in the 54th Masters.

The 47-year-old Floyd, who became the oldest winner of the US Open in 1986—the last time he won a tournament—held a two-shot lead over young John Huston, who was playing in his first Masters.

Huston, 28, matched Floyd's 68 for a 208 total to stay in contention to win his first major championship in his third year as a professional.

Defending champion Nick Faldo waited until the third round to make his move. The Briton fired a six-under-par 66—the best round of the day—to move within three strokes of the lead at 209.

"The idea of today was to get back into the ballgame," said Faldo, who

did just that after he opened the tournament with 71 and 72.

"I'm in good shape, just where I wanted to be," added the 1987 British Open champion, whose 66 was just one stroke off his personal best here—a 65 in the final round last year, when he won in a playoff.

Jack Nicklaus, who became the oldest Masters champion in 1986 when he added a sixth green jacket to his wardrobe at the age of 46, shot a solid 69 to take sole possession of fourth place at the age of 50.

Scott Hoch, who lost last year's playoff to Faldo when he missed a two-foot putt on the first extra hole, slipped to a one-over 73 and dropped six shots behind.

Hoch, who started the day just one stroke behind Floyd, was tied Bernhard Langer of West Germany, who won here in 1985 and has been in contention going into the final round every year since. Langer put himself

in that position again with a 69.

Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain, an important member of Europe's last two victorious Ryder Cup teams, and Scott Simpson, the 1987 US Open champion, both shot 68 and were tied at 213 along with Bill Britton, who carded a 71.

Curtis Strange, the first back-to-back winner of the US Open since Ben Hogan, made a move toward the lead with a three-under front nine, but he stumbled coming in and wound up at 214, tied with Tom Kite.

Kite, the career leading money winner on the USPGA Tour who has yet to win a major championship, posted the first 66 of the day to keep his hopes alive in this first major of the year.

South African Gary Player, apparently inspired by the play of old-timers like Nicklaus and Floyd, shot an impressive 68 to lead a large group at 215.



Nicklaus comes off the green. (Reuters wirephoto)

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